...sity and Weekly Commercial.—News ...EVIATIONS.—1. Any one who takes a paper regu... the Postoffice, whether directed to his name o... or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

...rs on Business, Subscriptions, &c., ...MERCIAL, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XI.—NO. 8. WEEKLY EDITION. JANUARY 3, 1874.

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Pittsburgh

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Pittsburgh, Pa.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 28, 1873.

The Appointment of Caleb Cushing

to the mission to Spain is considered in diplomatic and official circles as unquestionably the best which has been made by the present administration. Mr. Cushing, notwithstanding his advanced years, yet possesses all the vigor of a great intellect, and to his natural ability and vast learning adds almost half a century of experience in the practice and precepts of international and constitutional law. He is a trained diplomat of the old school and with courtly manners, combines quick perceptions and the mastery of a dozen languages. He negotiated the first treaty between the United States and China, fifty years ago. This masterpiece of diplomacy is the corner-stone of our relations with that peculiar people. He has figured in the cabinet as a legal advisor of the government, and his course before the Geneva arbitration shook the very centers of European diplomacy. The growing intricacy of our relations with Spain, therefore, makes it eminently fitting that he should represent us at the court of that nation, and in accepting the office he leaves a sphere of greater profit and equal influence. Mr. Cushing has had relations with Spain for more than a quarter of a century. He has a thorough knowledge of the Spanish language and character—probably as much so as Castelar himself—and will create an impression at Madrid in strong contrast with the career of Sickles. Hereafter, negotiations with Spain will be transferred to Madrid, and it is understood that Mr. Cushing will enter upon his duties clothed with ample powers to act, even *to the negotiation of a treaty.*

The Virginius Question

is by no means settled. Spain has failed to keep her promises respecting the abolition of slavery in Cuba. These and other important questions await the presence of the new minister. His mission has no connection with

The Acquisition of Cuba.

It is admitted on all hands that such a step would not only be impolitic, but disastrous to the peace of the nation. There is no desire to undertake the annexation of a miserable population, but it is proposed, if possible, to negotiate a new treaty in which it is hoped more intimate commercial relations will be established with the Spanish Islands of the gulf. This would insure greater benefits than could be expected under the circumstances, from possession.

Cabinet Rumors

have been revived, to fill the absence of Congressional news. It is an old story of Delano going into the Treasury. To accomplish this, Mr. Richardson is set down for the mission to England. It is also said that Richardson and Schenck are to exchange places. This programme is authoritatively denied, though there seems to be sufficient grounds for the opinion that a change in the head of the Treasury is not remote.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 29, 1873.

Mr. Cushing and the Mission to Spain.

Caleb Cushing, whose name will be sent to the Senate on Monday for confirmation as Minister to Spain, and which, it is conceded on all hands, will be confirmed, is busily engaged in arranging his business so as to admit of an early departure for Madrid. It is understood that he has agreed to serve in the present emergency only, and as soon as the urgency of his presence at Madrid has ceased, he will return. In a conversation with your correspondent on the line of the matters of the Virginius, Mr. Cushing stated his views on the subject, remarking that it was extremely necessary for the government to first carefully investigate the character of the Virginius and her right to carry the flag, before demanding her surrender. His reasons in full were given in these dispatches at the time. It now appears from the decision of the Attorney General, that the Secretary of State overlooked this important consideration, and hence the government has been placed in a very embarrassing position, though there is no danger of a war.

Spain Will Demand the Surrender of the Virginius.

Information received here points very conclusively to the fact that Spain will make a demand for the delivery of the Virginius *and damages. General* Cushing does not believe Spain could bring the matter to arbitration under the principles which governed the tribunal at Geneva for the reason that vessels fitted out in British ports for Confederate service could not be compared to our commerce, which has not been the case in vessels from American ports aiding the cause of Cuba. The claim for consequential damages was ruled out at Geneva.

An Awkward Predicament.

The extraordinary decision of the Attorney General on documents which it took but twelve days to bring together, places us at a great disadvantage in any sort of litigation; and taking that to be correct, the surrender of the vessel by Spain would leave us in the light of demanding an apology, at least. If possible to extricate us from our present position in the controversy, that desirable aim will be attained by General Cushing. In diplomatic quarters as well as in official, the progress of this question is watched with great interest.

The Railroad War

continues. The Baltimore and Ohio road having made a reduction of rates, the Pennsylvania Central to-day announced a similar reduction. The fare to Pittsburgh is now down to five dollars, and to all points West rates are in the same proportion.

Creswell Against the Restoration of the Franking Privilege.

The Postmaster General is preparing a statement against the restoration of the franking privilege. The law of the last session provides for the payment of the mails by weight, instead of bulk, which would require payment on public documents by the pound, which would foot up, he says, enormously.

The Edgar Stewart to be Detained.

Orders have been sent to Baltimore to prevent the sailing of the alleged Cuban filibuster, Edgar Stewart, unless she can furnish very conclusive evidence of a legitimate mission.

Public Buildings.

Shortly before the recess of Congress Mr. Duell, of New York, secured the passage of a resolution directing the Committee on Expenditures on Public Buildings to inquire, first, as to the condition and management of the appropriations for the erection of public buildings; second, if all the money had been disbursed in accordance with law; and third, what retrenchment could be made in the erection of public buildings without detriment to the public service. This information is desired primarily for the use of the committee, and it will probably determine how and in what manner appropriations for this purpose shall be made in the future. It is asserted that the depletion of the treasury is due in a great measure to the erection of so many public buildings in various parts of the country, and while it is undeniable that the government should own, rather than rent its public buildings, when the value of the former is more than with such heavy interest to be met annually and with other great expenses, it is not the wisest course to have so many buildings going up at the same time.

How Building Bills Got Through.

Last winter there was a perfect building ring, at least in the House of Representatives, and the members from different States agreed to vote for each other's bills, and thus secured the passage of all of them. As a consequence more work was ordered of this description than in almost any preceding Congress.

Another Great Evil

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The Chorpenning Case Again.

The notorious Chorpenning claim is bound to excite a good deal of interest after the recess, and some members who have remained in the city have been industriously hunting up the records to ascertain the part taken by Mr. Cessna when the bill originally passed. It will be recollected that when Mr. Cessna received the subject just before the recess, he stated, in reply to an inquiry as to why he had not made his explanation when the subject was proposed, and why he had not then demanded a hearing for Chorpenning, that he was at home on account of sickness in his family. He is not recorded as voting on the question of repealing that clause of the act which was inserted for Chorpenning's benefit; but he is recorded as voting upon another question later in the day. This fact will doubtless have its weight in the future argument of the case. The fact, too, that Mr. Cessna intimated desire to refer the case to the Judiciary Committee does not look well, for he is a member of that committee and is himself to a certain extent on trial, as no investigation would be complete without freely sifting his own agency in the original passage of the act.

More Money Wanted for the Indian Service.

The Secretary of the Interior will send in a letter to Congress next month asking an appropriation of one million dollars, more or less, to supply deficiencies in the Indian service for the last fiscal year. Both Congress and the people will be apt to look upon this as rather a singular response to the cry for retrenchment, particularly as in the deficiency bill of March 3d, 1873, there was inserted items to the amount of $1,277,000 for deficiencies in the Indian service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1873. In addition to this, it is understood that an appropriation of another million will be asked to supply the deficiencies for the present year. It has been noticed here that since the humane policy toward the Indians has prevailed, the expenses have run up frightfully.

Stamps for the Treasury Department.

Out of the $504,000 appropriated for official stamps for the Treasury Department for the present fiscal year $407,000 had been expended up to the close of last month.

Caleb Cushing

is busily engaged settling up his affairs preparatory to leaving for Madrid. He has received a number of complimentary telegrams on his appointment. A friend remarked to him that he was surprised that a man at his time of life should think of crossing the ocean, when Mr. Cushing inquired if an old man was not as safe as a baby.

The Trial of the Virginius—An Unpromising Outlook in the Courts—A Review of the Case—Conflicting Circumstances—Prospect of a Diplomatic Controversy with Spain—The Department of State Warned—The Legal Aspect of the Question—The Secretary of State Takes a New Tack—The Opinion of the Attorney General—Early Conflicting Precedents—A Dilemma—A Supposition Needed—A Curious Chain of Facts—New Year's at the National Capital.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 29, 1873.

The settlement of the Virginius case in every promise of proving more complicated and questionable, as far as the United States are concerned, than could possibly have been imagined when our government so boldly stepped forward as the champion of her nationality and the sacred character of her flag. The excitement throughout the country when the news came that the vessel had been captured on the high seas by a Spanish cruiser was the natural consequence of the outspoken will of the government had previously several times given of her nationality and of her right to carry the flag. Recent events, however, do not harmonize with the earlier stages of the controversy. The trial of the vessel and her owner in New York, it is to be feared, will but precede a very disagreeable contest with Spain. In diplomatic circles the run of opinion, based on facts and circumstances, is in favor of Spain, and it is declared that before a court of arbitration the United States would not be able to make out a case in the affair, as it at present stands before the world. It now appears conclusively that the Department of State fully two years ago was repeatedly advised of the violation of neutrality, committed by vessels fitted out in ports of the United States and laden with materials of war and men for the same purpose of aiding an insurrection on Spanish soil. The operations of the Virginius were also fully and ingenuously pressed under the attention of the Department of State with similar lack of notice, and what is more, her career in the waters of the West Indies would seem on the facts now presented, to have been under the special patronage of that department. Consulates of Spanish vessels were time and again not only refused to keep hands off but were threatened with a sanitary blowing out of her if she did not heed the warning. She was escorted out of harbors and convoyed on the line of the usurpations of the Virginius, Mr. Cushing stated his views on the subject, remarking that it was extremely necessary for the government to first carefully investigate the character of the Virginius and her right to carry the flag, before demanding her surrender. His reasons in full were given in these dispatches at the time. It now appears from the decision of the Attorney General, that the Secretary of State overlooked this important consideration, and hence the government has been placed in a very embarrassing position, though there is no danger of a war.

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THE GREAT STRIKE.

A Weakening Among the "Outs."

Many Engineers Willing to Resume Work.

Crestline.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

CRESTLINE, O., December 29, 1873.

The passenger trains of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railway have moved today without interruption, as usual. The mail train from the east was an hour late, arriving here this evening, delayed simply by reason of the engine not making steam. It was in charge of Joseph Graham, the veteran foreman of the company's shops at Alliance. Out of a force of thirty engineers on the Crestline and Alliance division, who joined the strikers, eighteen have already signified their readiness to return to their engines; and but for the influence of their brethren east of Alliance, it is clearly evident that all engineers at this end of the Eastern Division would, before now, have been at work. Regret is freely expressed that they ever entered on the strike, and a disposition is developing this evening to act independently, and accept their situations while an opportunity yet remains. The officials of the road have met all respectful interviews and communications in a similar manner, and while they have not receded an inch from their original position, their discreet action has doubtless done much to bring about the repentant feeling manifested, which is leading to a speedy resumption of freight trains between here and Pittsburgh. The situation is unchanged between here and Chicago, trains running on time and engineers firm in their opposition to the strike, notwithstanding the immense pressure brought to bear on them. There are no acts of violence to report at any point on this line.

Logansport, Ind.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

LOGANSPORT, IND., December 29, 1873.

The 8.20 A. M. mail train left Chicago for Cincinnati this morning on time, under armed guard, and passed Logan all right. An attempt was made to start the 9 A. M. mail east from Logan, but it was discovered that all the engines in the round house had been tampered with. The train was, however, gotten out at 2:30 P. M. under an armed guard. The mail train left Richmond at 10 A. M. for Chicago, and while standing at the depot at Logansport, engineer McCullough was struck in the forehead with a stone, making an ugly cut, but not dangerous. He proceeded with the train. The strikers appear to be aware that they are losing ground, and are getting desperate. Several have been arrested. General Daniel McCauley, with a detachment of troops from Indianapolis, is here, and is determined to do his full duty in protecting railroad property and the men disposed to work.

Columbus.

COLUMBUS, December 29.—Governor Noyes received to-day a telegram from Adjutant General Knapp, who went to Dennison to investigate the necessity for the interference of the State authorities to keep the peace among striking engineers and firemen. He reports that on the arrival of a militia company from Steubenville under command of Captain Sarah, has been since maintained without difficulty. He anticipates no further trouble. Three trains have arrived to-day in charge of master mechanics and assistants, from Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and Indianapolis.

Indianapolis.

INDIANAPOLIS, December 29.—The engineers strike continues without much change. Rumors are current of a general strike on all the roads, but cannot be traced to any reliable authority. Last night a party of masked men from the Jeffersonville, Madison and Indianapolis Railroad round house, and after threatening the watchman, broke the guages of all engines in the house, and then left. Two of the engines were repaired, and ready for service this morning. A large crowd gathered in the Pan Handle yards to-day, but the shops were closed, and a guard armed with Spencer rifles paced the yard. Bush, who shot engineer Vance night before last, waived an examination this morning, and was committed to jail in default of $5,000 bail.

Indianapolis, December 29.—There is but

little change in railroad matters to-day. On the Columbus division of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis road one train each way passed over the road. The Jefferson Madison and Indianapolis road sent out one freight train of twenty-four cars and one passenger train each. The Indianapolis and Vincinnes road has been more fortunate than others, having run twenty-five freight train arrivals and departures regularly. The night trains on all striking roads have been temporarily abandoned. At the request of General Macauly, in command of the militia at Logansport, twenty pounds of ammunition was distributed this morning to the guards there were so sick as to be almost unable to stand. The sufferings of some of the number were intense, and no pity was in the breasts of the Spaniards. At this point on the coast they were placed on board the steamer Baxan, which at once set sail for Havana. At Manzanilla it was met by the mail steamer coming in an opposite direction. On board this steamer was General Burriel, who had just ordered the Bazan to return to Santiago. She turned about but soon after ran aground, and the passengers were transferred to another vessel. Here they suffered horrors beyond unknown. They were crowded in the hold of the vessel where scarcely a ray of sunlight could struggle in. The air was poison, the darkness almost continuous; the food they ate was wretched in quality and insufficient in quantity; the water they drank was what remained in the buckets after the animals on board were satisfied. These animals consisted namely of horses and mules. They were kept on the deck above the prisoners, and were thus a constant source of annoyance to them, helpless prisoners confined below. It is said that in the midst of all this filth and suffering, the prisoners were not allowed to wash while on board the vessel for a period of ten days, and that their arms were pinioned behind them the larger portion of the voyage. They were occasionally beaten on the slightest provocation and sometimes on none at all. These punishments, however, seem not to have been of a nature so serious as to prove fatal in any case.

Commander Braine said to the *Tribune* reporter: "The feeling at Santiago against Americans is exceedingly bitter, and Vice Consul Smith is in actual danger of his life. He has several times been threatened with assassination, and I think one of our men-of-war ought to be stationed there permanently—at least till the feeling subsides, as I hope it will. Vice Consul Smith was abused most shamefully in their daily papers, and it was only by my personal intercession on his behalf that I got him better treated by the officials of any trouble. Rumors are being circulated this afternoon of strikers resuming work on the Eastern Division of the Fort Wayne road. This has had a tendency to restore good feeling among the engineers.

Chicago.

CHICAGO, December 29.—The members of the Brotherhood of Engineers in this city have passed a resolution that they are not disposed to submit to any reduction of the rate of wages they were receiving prior to December first, as that rate was low enough, although it gave general satisfaction, also tendering their sympathy and pecuniary support to all engineers now opposing, or who may hereafter oppose any reduction of their wages. These resolutions are published and signed by committees from the Illinois Central, Chicago and Alton, Rock Island, Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, Milwaukee and St. Paul and Michigan Central roads.

HAVANA.

Favorable Reception of Cushing's Nomination—Captain General's Resignation not Accepted.

HAVANA, December 28.—The appointment of Mr. Cushing as Minister to Spain is favorably received here. Spaniards are loud in their expressions of satisfaction at the resignation of Sickles, which, in charge with the investigation of many of the intestive troubles of the peninsula.

The Madrid government has not only refused to accept the resignation of Captain General Jovellar, which was forwarded on the fourth inst., but has granted him extended and extraordinary powers. The nature of these powers is not yet known, but it is supposed they embrace authority to declare the island in a state of siege should the Captain General find it necessary. The home government also offers additional reinforcements.

Rumored Removal of Burriel.

HAVANA, December 28.—The *Voz de Cuba* says it is rumored that General Burriel has been relieved from the command of the Eastern Department by orders from Madrid.

BLAIRSVILLE, PA.

Railroad Accident—Death of a Prominent Merchant—Jumping from a Train—Art Entertainment.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

BLAIRSVILLE, PA., December 26, 1873.

One section of a freight train West, ran into another section on the Saltsburg bridge of the West Penn Railroad, Wednesday morning, damaging the engines and cars. Fortunately no one was hurt.

William P. Stratton, a prominent merchant of this place, died yesterday morning. He will be buried on Saturday by the Masons and Odd Fellows.

Samuel J. Wakefield either fell or jumped off the emigrant train West last evening, a short distance east of Blairsville intersection. He is supposed to have been under the influence of liquor. He was seriously cut on the head. Dr. M. L. Miller dressed his wounds.

R. A. Burke gave another art entertainment to a large audience last night, which is highly spoken of.

WASHINGTON, PA.

Probable Fatal Accident—The Brownson Anniversary.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, PA., December 29, 1873.

To-day a man named Dillinger, engaged in building telegraph lines, while crossing a bridge about thirty feet high, was struck by a hand-car and thrown to the ground, inflicting serious if not fatal injuries.

Dr. Brownson's anniversary was further celebrated last evening, by an address from Dr. G. F. Hays, Rev. Samuel F. Wilson, of Allegheny City; Hon. John H. Kreps, of Allegheny City, will deliver address at this evening.

BLOODY SHOOTING MATCH.

Christmas Sports in Ohio.

Young Man Shot by His Own Brother.

Who is at Once Hung by Spectators.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

DONSON, O., December 28, 1873.

At a shooting match to-day, at Riga, a village near here, two brothers, named respectively John and Henry Stowe, quarrelled about loading the rifle used. John called Henry a liar, when Henry drew a revolver and shot John, killing him instantly. The spectators, being much excited, caught and hung Henry to a limb of a tree, and when taken down life was extinct. Too much whiskey caused it all.

LATER.—The particulars of the Stowe fratricide and the subsequent hanging of Henry Stowe are as follows:

The Village of Riga

consists of a portable sawmill and three houses occupied by the employees of the mill. It is situated on the farm of John Riga, from whom it received its name. It is about thirteen miles north west of this place.

The Shooting Match

was a friendly affair and gotten up by John and Henry Stowe, who invited their neighbors to participate. After drinking freely of whisky, the company, consisting of the two Stowes, George and Joseph Geise, Robert Wolfe, and three brothers named Reynolds, repaired to a clearing near the mill to participate in the match. John Stowe insisted on loading the rifle for each competitor, and Henry contended that each man should charge the gun for himself. Henry, however, acceded to the demand of John until it came his turn to shoot, when he demanded that the rifle be given to him to load.

Killed by His Brother.

High words followed, in the course of which Henry charged John with dishonesty in not putting any ball in the gun when last loading it for Wolfe. John called Henry a liar, upon which Henry shot John dead with a revolver.

The Retribution.

Henry was immediately seized by Wolfe and the three Reynolds brothers, dragged to the mill, from which a rope was procured, and hung to a limb. The company then repaired to the office, as they called one of the three houses, and took a drink, and upon returning found the victim dead. Seeming to realize for the first time what had transpired, those who participated fled, and, up to the present, have not been captured.

The Parents of the Brothers Stowe,

who live in Pennsylvania, were notified at once of the terrible affair, and arrived this afternoon and took charge of the remains of their sons, who, it seems, were their only children. Officers are in pursuit of the parties concerned in the hanging.

THE VIRGINIUS.

Account of Their Sufferings—Inhumanity of the Spaniards—Starvation and Neglect—Robbery and Cruelty.

NEW YORK, December 28.—A reporter of the *Tribune* who boarded the Juniata immediately after her arrival, obtained full particulars from a variety of sources concerning the treatment received by the prisoners at the hands of their Spanish captors. All these reports agree in one particular, namely: that the treatment received uniformly harsh, and in some cases barbarous. The fact which has not generally been known, by the statement of the prisoners now comes to light, which is that they were robbed by the crew of the Tornado, and all who owned anything were robbed on Santiago harbor, watches and other valuables. The prisoners were taken to the jail of Santiago soon after their arrival in port there. They were crowded together like sheep. After their confinement began, they were not assigned to separate cells, indeed there was no opportunity for such confinement in the contracted quarters of the jail. Each, who shot engineer Vance night before last, waived an examination this morning, and was committed to jail in default of $5,000 bail.

INDIANAPOLIS, December 29.—There is but little change in railroad matters to-day. On the Columbus division of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis road one train each way passed over the road. The Jefferson Madison and Indianapolis road sent out one freight train of twenty-four cars and one passenger train each. The Indianapolis and Vincinnes road has been more fortunate than others, having run twenty-five freight train arrivals and departures regularly. The night trains on all striking roads have been temporarily abandoned. At the request of General Macauly, in command of the militia at Logansport, twenty pounds of ammunition was distributed this morning to the guards there were so sick as to be almost unable to stand. The sufferings of some of the number were intense, and no pity was in the breasts of the Spaniards. At this point on the coast they were placed on board the steamer Baxan, which at once set sail for Havana. At Manzanilla it was met by the mail steamer coming in an opposite direction. On board this steamer was General Burriel, who had just ordered the Bazan to return to Santiago. She turned about but soon after ran aground, and the passengers were transferred to another vessel. Here they suffered horrors beyond unknown. They were crowded in the hold of the vessel where scarcely a ray of sunlight could struggle in. The air was poison, the darkness almost continuous; the food they ate was wretched in quality and insufficient in quantity; the water they drank was what remained in the buckets after the animals on board were satisfied. These animals consisted namely of horses and mules. They were kept on the deck above the prisoners, and were thus a constant source of annoyance to them, helpless prisoners confined below. It is said that in the midst of all this filth and suffering, the prisoners were not allowed to wash while on board the vessel for a period of ten days, and that their arms were pinioned behind them the larger portion of the voyage. They were occasionally beaten on the slightest provocation and sometimes on none at all. These punishments, however, seem not to have been of a nature so serious as to prove fatal in any case.

Commander Braine said to the *Tribune* reporter: "The feeling at Santiago against Americans is exceedingly bitter, and Vice Consul Smith is in actual danger of his life. He has several times been threatened with assassination, and I think one of our men-of-war ought to be stationed there permanently—at least till the feeling subsides, as I hope it will. Vice Consul Smith was abused most shamefully in their daily papers, and it was only by my personal intercession on his behalf that I got him better treated by the officials of any trouble. Rumors are being circulated this afternoon of strikers resuming work on the Eastern Division of the Fort Wayne road. This has had a tendency to restore good feeling among the engineers.

Chicago.

CHICAGO, December 29.—The members of the Brotherhood of Engineers in this city have passed a resolution that they are not disposed to submit to any reduction of the rate of wages they were receiving prior to December first, as that rate was low enough, although it gave general satisfaction, also tendering their sympathy and pecuniary support to all engineers now opposing, or who may hereafter oppose any reduction of their wages. These resolutions are published and signed by committees from the Illinois Central, Chicago and Alton, Rock Island, Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, Milwaukee and St. Paul and Michigan Central roads.

HAVANA.

Favorable Reception of Cushing's Nomination—Captain General's Resignation not Accepted.

HAVANA, December 28.—The appointment of Mr. Cushing as Minister to Spain is favorably received here. Spaniards are loud in their expressions of satisfaction at the resignation of Sickles, which, in charge with the investigation of many of the intestive troubles of the peninsula.

The Madrid government has not only refused to accept the resignation of Captain General Jovellar, which was forwarded on the fourth inst., but has granted him extended and extraordinary powers. The nature of these powers is not yet known, but it is supposed they embrace authority to declare the island in a state of siege should the Captain General find it necessary. The home government also offers additional reinforcements.

Rumored Removal of Burriel.

HAVANA, December 28.—The *Voz de Cuba* says it is rumored that General Burriel has been relieved from the command of the Eastern Department by orders from Madrid.

BLAIRSVILLE, PA.

Railroad Accident—Death of a Prominent Merchant—Jumping from a Train—Art Entertainment.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

BLAIRSVILLE, PA., December 26, 1873.

One section of a freight train West, ran into another section on the Saltsburg bridge of the West Penn Railroad, Wednesday morning, damaging the engines and cars. Fortunately no one was hurt.

William P. Stratton, a prominent merchant of this place, died yesterday morning. He will be buried on Saturday by the Masons and Odd Fellows.

Samuel J. Wakefield either fell or jumped off the emigrant train West last evening, a short distance east of Blairsville intersection. He is supposed to have been under the influence of liquor. He was seriously cut on the head. Dr. M. L. Miller dressed his wounds.

R. A. Burke gave another art entertainment to a large audience last night, which is highly spoken of.

WASHINGTON, PA.

Probable Fatal Accident—The Brownson Anniversary.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, PA., December 29, 1873.

To-day a man named Dillinger, engaged in building telegraph lines, while crossing a bridge about thirty feet high, was struck by a hand-car and thrown to the ground, inflicting serious if not fatal injuries.

Dr. Brownson's anniversary was further celebrated last evening, by an address from Dr. G. F. Hays, Rev. Samuel F. Wilson, of Allegheny City; Hon. John H. Kreps, of Allegheny City, will deliver address at this evening.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1874.

An Eastern medical journal cites a number of cases wherein blows on the head have benefited the brain and produced extraordinary changes for the better. We think of Congress, and sigh wearily for HERCULES and his club.

THE course of the opposition press toward the administration would look a good deal less stupid to the impartial outside observer, if those papers could only be brought to an agreement among themselves. If they must distort, misrepresent and malign, at least let them pay some slight regard to the unities of falsehood.

THE New Orleans *Picayune* sapiently advises the young men of that city who are out of employment to go into the country, purchase a few acres of land, and go to raising plums, peaches, figs, grapes, oranges, and other fruits. We shall presently expect to hear that the *Picayune* has invented a process for making toast without bread.

JUDGING from the tone of our exchanges, the farmers of the country seem to be unanimously of opinion that we have never had a better seed time than the present. The last six weeks have been dry, and until this week, there has been an almost entire absence of frost. Consequently there are no impediments to a vigorous prosecution of autumn work, and as labor is abundant, a large breadth of land has been sown with winter wheat. The young plants look well, and the agricultural prospect for next year is looked upon, therefore, as more than usually hopeful.

THE Louisville *Courier-Journal* mildly snubs the Philadelphia *Press* for its hopeful prognostication that before the holidays of 1875 JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE will be back in Congress. That paper says: "Nothing is less likely than that Mr. BRECKINRIDGE would accept a seat in the lower house of Congress, and there is no election for the upper house in Kentucky between this and the time specified for the reentrance of the ex-Vice President into national affairs." FORNEY would seem to take a good deal warmer interest in BRECKINRIDGE than do the people of the country at large.

IN Philadelphia where, a few weeks ago, the business aspect was gloomy and disheartening, affairs have taken on a much brighter and more encouraging look. The large manufactories of cotton, woolen and iron have, as a general thing, resumed work; the shrinkage of values has been almost entirely made up, and producers are receiving fair prices for their goods. The demand for manufactures has, however, fallen off to a considerable degree, and those now being turned out are for the spring trade, which is expected to be the best the city has known for years.

GREAT BRITAIN appears to be growing really alarmed at the remarkable progress which Roman Catholicism is making in that country. Earl RUSSELL has written a letter in which he states that the time has come, foreseen by Sir ROBERT PEEL, when the Roman Catholic church disclaims equality and will be satisfied with nothing but ascendency. No plan of checkmating this steadily increasing influence is suggested, however. Suppose the Anglican clergy were to try the effects of a little more Apostolic earnestness, unworldliness, sincerity, and simplicity upon their endangered flocks.

THE New York Board of Education proposes to establish a free school of chemical science in that city. This is better than most of the experiments ventured upon in that metropolis. We are a country of inventors, the ingenuity of our people is almost universally proverbial, and with this inherent talent it is proper to do all that can be rightly done toward the distribution of scientific knowledge among those whose means are limited. The expense of attending technical schools is considerable, and comparatively few can enjoy the benefits of scientific instruction unless they are able to pay some hundreds of dollars a year. We shall await with interest the practical workings of the experiment.

THE New York papers publish full lists of the corporations already announced as being ready to pay interest or dividends in that city on January 1, 1874, and there are fewer defaults than were anticipated. The *Times* says:

"The falling off in the New Year, from the last July dividends, will prove less serious than apprehended a few weeks ago. As all the railroad dividends have not yet been advertised, it is too early to know the number of defaults or extensions of interest, but we believe that nearly all the roads that paid in July will make provision for their January interest.

[illegible] pear in our present list, are the Lake Shore stock, Central National Bank stock, and Union Trust."

THE first State election under the new Constitution will be held November 3, 1874. The people will then elect twenty-seven members of Congress, eleven State Senators for two years from those Senatorial districts (as at present existing) in which the terms of Senators expire, two hundred and one members of the House under a new apportionment, an Auditor General, a Secretary of Internal Affairs, a Lieutenant Governor, two additional Judges of the Supreme Court, and judges in such new judicial districts as may be created.

The Legislature, at its coming session, will district the State for fifty Senators, as well as for two hundred and one Representatives; but the first election for the increased number of Senators will not take place until 1876, when the even numbered districts will elect for four years and the odd-numbered ones for two years.

THE new law requiring all foreign invoices of goods to be converted into United States money on the basis of the actual amount of pure metal in the coins of the several countries in which the invoices may have originated, goes into effect to-day. It is expected that the new system will greatly simplify the computation of foreign moneys and cause all foreign invoices to be converted into United States money upon a correct basis for the collection of duties. Nearly all foreign coins have, under the existing practice, been undervalued, the variation being from one-half to four per cent. Under the new law the assessable surface of foreign invoices will, in the levy of duties, be correspondingly increased. It is estimated at the Treasury Department that this new valuation will increase our customs receipts a million dollars per annum. The franc of Belgium, Italy and Switzerland is increased a fraction over three per cent., while the pound sterling of Great Britain is computed a trifle over two cents higher.

Two or three months ago we referred to the inauguration of a movement among English capitalists, having in view the formation of a "National Federation of Associated Employers of Labor," designed for the defense of capital against what are considered to be the injust demands and impositions of the trades unions of that country. The organization is now completed, and includes the names of the most prominent manufacturers of Great Britain. It is stated that the present membership of the Federation represents the employment of nearly two million workmen. The leaders of the movement state that it is purely defensive; the main objects being resistance to strikes, and the dissemination of information bearing upon industrial questions, for which purpose it is in contemplation to establish a weekly or a fortnightly newspaper. The Federation will also watch and, every legislative proposal affecting employers and employed, with a view to influencing the same; it will encourage the independence of non-unionists, and endeavor "to give to education, intelligence and capital their fair share of influence in the constituencies." This is one of the legitimate results of the domineering spirit which the trade leagues of England have of late exhibited. It is, of course, greatly to be regretted that the necessity for such a combination should have arisen, but the defiant obstinacy of the roaring demagogues who have managed to obtain control of the labor movement in that country is principally responsible for it.

A VERY important discovery of ancient classics, consisting of manuscripts from the collections of MITHRADATES, PTOLEMY, MATTHIAS CORVINUS, ALMAMUM, PALEOLOGUS, and other great historic names of the remote past, has recently been made near Khiva, by an eminent Russian savan. There is said to be positive evidence of the fact that they are the remnants of the great library which TIMUR gathered at Samarkand, and which was added to by the Seljuk sultans of Bokhara. Many of the books are from the library of ALMAMUM, at Bagdat, and before that were on the shelves of the great library of Alexandria. One roll of manuscripts contains a medical work attributed to PYTHAGORAS, and claims to have originally belonged to the library of MITHRADATES, King of Pontus. The collection is reported to be particularly rich in ancient physics and philosophy. The other branches of literature, however, are not barren, and there are some real treasures, which, if not too defective to be restored, will delight the world. Among these are said to be several which once belonged to the Aristotelian collection of APELLICON, which SYLLA the Dictator sent to Rome from Athens; some precious fragments of ARISTOTLE, SOPHOCLES, EPICURUS, and other Greek authors, besides three books which belonged to the famous KALIF AARON ARASCHEED, together with a splendid collection of Greek and Roman autographs made in the ninth century at Constantinople, and embracing among other things, letters in the handwriting of most of the eminent personages of that day. The rare collection, which has been obtained for the Imperial Russian Geographical Society, will doubtless set the scholars and antiquaries of all christendom on the *qui vive*.

1873.

The year 1873, when in the future referred to at all, will undoubtedly be characterized as a year of increasing activity in all departments of human exertion. And this remark applies equally to both sides of the Atlantic. Since many years indolence and sloth in secular matters have been under ban, and in the year just closed the movement in all branches of social, industrial, and intellectual life, has more strikingly than ever before evinced the prevalent desire of men to make the most of the present world. Or, if in other years such a desire may have been equally keen and prevalent, it is certainly true that, never before were there so many of any generation consciously struggling with a definite purpose to render the earth an agreeable dwelling place for many nations, and to get rid of or to modify all opinions and prepossessions and all hereditary physical conditions and moral traditions incompatible with the end in view.

As to the conflict between the empire and the Catholic Church in Germany, which has been the great topic of interest throughout the year, opinion in this country is, of course, somewhat divided. Not only Catholics, but many Protestants, naturally sympathize with the weaker party, the former moved by religious feeling, and the latter by the mere word persecution. But those who look more closely at the subject, apart from the mists of prejudice, though they may not approve of all the measures of the German government, can hardly fail to recognize in its chiefs the real, even if involuntary, defenders of human rights and liberties. For a number of years the Papacy has been entirely controlled by the Jesuits, and has been thus again converted into a gigantic temporal as well as spiritual despotism, whose ascendancy would be fatal to freedom everywhere. It is Jesuitism, not genuine Catholicism, with which Germany is at war, and this is equally true of the struggle between the government and the church in Switzerland and in Italy. Though the contest is not yet decided in any one of those countries, enough has been achieved to leave little doubt about the result, and the year 1873 will, most likely, be memorable in history as the year in which the Jesuits received a defeat irreparable for ages at least. By statesmen educated in Jesuit colleges they have been disabled in Italy, and their houses suppressed, the General of the order having retired to Belgium; and in Switzerland also, some of the statesmen most prominent in resisting their machinations, first learned to know the pious Fathers in the character of instructors and guardians of their own youth.

In connection with this contest the organization of the Old Catholic Church is an important event of the year. In Germany the church already contains about 50,000 members, with countless sympathizers, and in Switzerland the church has between 30,000 and 40,000 members. In the opinion of competent observers, the movement is not at all unlikely to prove itself the beginning of a Reformation, with the establishment of national churches in both the countries named. The importance of the movement is already sufficiently manifest in the anxiety with which it is regarded by the head and princes of the body from which the secession has taken place.

Those whose hopes of human progress in Europe are bound up in the recognition of practical democracy or republicanism, cannot feel much satisfaction in view of the [illegible] events during the past year. In Germany republicanism is under a heavier cloud than it has known for many years. Royal government is stronger than ever; democracy is degraded in the eyes of all owners of property and lovers of order by the schemes and clamors of those reformers who call themselves Social Democrats, and among all classes bitter reproach has been cast upon the Republican name, by those "free and independent American citizens," who have fraudulently obtained about thirty millions of dollars from the small capitalists of southern Germany, multitudes of them widows, orphans, teachers, clerks, etc., who were thus deprived of their all. It is a horrid fact, but perhaps as well worthy of mention as any other among the incidents of the year.

In Spain and in France the Republicans have in the course of the year failed to prove themselves capable of realizing their plans and wishes. Though it would be unwise for us to despair of the final establishment of popular government in either of those countries, it must be admitted that in neither of them have recent events justified any high hope of such a consummation. In the contrary, they unfortunately plainly indicate a strong military rule as alone adapted to maintain peace and order in each of them, and the prospect plainly is that soon or later a King will once more reign on both sides of the Pyrenees.

In England, perhaps, nothing more important has taken place than the movement among the agricultural laborers and the active sympathy it has awakened among the well-to-do classes. JOSEPH ARCH, in a speech since his return from Canada, has declared his purpose and his ability to deprive England of its farm laborers, unless their condition shall be improved at home. This was a rather strong threat, but doubtless ARCH's exertions will have useful results.

In our own history, 1873 must always be a memorable year. The Credit Mobilier business alone would suffice to distinguish it, an affair which Americans for many generations cannot afford to forget. Then there is the Modoc war, which must always be referred to in illustration of the character of the Aborigines and in illustration of the absurdities which have sometimes marked our methods of dealing with them. The Grange movement is another fact or series of facts pertaining to the year just gone. A proper and legitimate outcome of the spirit of reform, inspired by the painfully realized feeling of wrongs and abuses, the movement in its history will long serve to illustrate the difficulties and dangers which beset such enterprises. The narrative when written will show unmistakably that an organization of the kind, formed to overcome even the most manifest evils, is exposed to nearly, if not quite, as much peril and injury at the hands of its friends as at the hands of its enemies. Astounding frauds and defalcations formed another notable feature of the year, mingled crimes and calamities from which hardly any city or section of the land has been exempt, and of which the consequences, direct and indirect, are still too painfully felt to need either reminder or comment. On the other hand, the year has been made remarkable by a decided reaction, a vigorous uprising of honest and high-minded men against the infernal fiendencies of which the evils mentioned were the eruption. Surely we may trust that this antagonism is not a mere paroxysm of honesty and virtue.

The Virginius trouble having begun in 1873, was for a while expected to have its issue within the year. Though disappointed in this hope, we may reasonably trust that, in the retrospect of the year which begins to-day, this unfinished affair will be seen to have introduced and led to a happy settlement of the long pending and perilous Cuban imbroglio.

The return of the Polaris expedition was not the least memorable event of the year. The voyage and especially the boat voyages of the two divisions of the expedition in their attempts to reach civilization, rank second in thrilling interest to nothing in the entire annals of maritime adventure, while the scientific results of the expedition, in spite of the loss of records, are admitted by savants to be of the greatest value. One of these results, the establishment of the fact that Greenland is an island, has attracted less attention here than in Europe. We can barely mention the meeting of the Evangelical Alliance in New York, an event of the year eminently noteworthy not only in a religious aspect, but besides in consideration of its influence in establishing agreeable relations among distant nations by mitigating prejudices and increasing mutual knowledge.

MR. CUSHING AND HIS MISSION.

MR. CALEB CUSHING is not believed to be going to Spain as an ordinary Minister or representative of his government. He probably does not merely succeed MR. SICKLES. Though no extraordinary title may be conferred upon him, he has, no doubt, been selected as the best man to perform some special service rendered necessary by the condition of Spain and by the peculiar relations which just now exist between Spain and the United States. It is, therefore, not supposed that Mr. CUSHING will remain very long in Madrid, but having succeeded or failed in effecting the object of his appointment, will make way for a successor decked equal to the ordinary duties of the Spanish Embassy. We have no positive authority for such a view of the character of his mission, but found it on probable considerations. In the first place, MR. CUSHING is "well stricken in age," while his habits of life and his engagements are such as to render it unlikely that he should accept a diplomatic position for any other than very peculiar and urgent reasons. In the second place, his reputation and certain obvious qualifications would seem to point him out as the right person, at least in many respects, to represent his government in the discussion and adjustment of complicated and embarrassing international questions. Some of the most important faculties of a first-rate lawyer are in him highly developed; his stores of legal, historical and political knowledge have been often described as immense by competent judges; having spent many years abroad in early life, and having never ceased to cultivate acquaintance both with the people and with the literature of continental Europe, MR. CUSHING, though strongly American in feeling, is thoroughly liberalized and able to look at the foreign side of controversies from the foreign as well as from the domestic point of view; and last, not least, he is, of course, wholly free from the mischievous political sentimentalism, which identifies well ordered liberty and national well being with the mere growth of republicanism irrespective of other considerations. Spain being the scene of his prospective labors, it is pertinent to remember that, with Spain and its people, MR. CUSHING made himself personally familiar forty or more years ago. Though said to be passionate and certainly capable of occasional indiscretion, as his last book showed, he has, in the performance of many public duties, given evidence of possessing both judgment and tact.

But the most satisfactory reason in favor of the view that MR. CALEB CUSHING is going to Madrid as a sort of special commissioner is found in the actual relations between Spain and the United States. The affair of the Virginius is at once settled and unsettled. As the case now stands, it involves complications which would be embarrassing under any circumstances, and which are greatly increased by the unsettled condition of the Spanish government. The subject may or might easily become a very exciting question in this country. Not only Democrats but some Republicans are already charging the administration with having grossly mismanaged a business which, only a few days ago, was believed by nearly all parties to have been managed with admirable and credit. It is, however, too soon yet to begin to find fault. In demanding the surrender of the ship, MR. FISH was merely maintaining an American view of the right of search, often asserted and even fought for; a view which, whether accepted or not by other nations, the American people are, most likely, ready to uphold. The American government alone has the right to decide whether or not a vessel is entitled to the protection of its flag. American officials having already more than once recognized the Virginius as an American ship, it is not strange that, in presence of the outrage committed upon it, MR. FISH did not pause to examine Spanish evidence of its lawless character; evidence which appears to have been repeatedly before submitted to the State Department as grounds for arresting the career of the ship in Cuban waters. Assuming Attorney General WILLIAMS's decision to be sound, it would seem that the examination of the evidence offered by the Spanish Minister, six months or nine months ago, should have led to action on the part of the American government which would have prevented all subsequent trouble about the Virginius. But there is at least probable reason to regard the Attorney General's judgment as erroneous, as having been made in ignorance or oversight of legal decisions and of maritime usages, with which he ought to have been, but was not, familiar. In either case, the position of the American government in relation to Spain undoubtedly appears somewhat awkward and undignified; or rather it would appear so, in consequence of those conditions in the Spanish administration at Cuba, which properly apprehended and considered [illegible] at once to account for and, partly at least, to excuse the attitude of the United States. Spain, however, can not be expected very cheerfully to admit her own imbecility and the administration as justification of [illegible] duct, and may not unexpected to push her advantage. Spain, no doubt, thinks she has a right, the Attorney General's decision being confirmed to demand the re-delivery of the ship, and on the other hand, whether the Attorney General's decision be correct or incorrect, she thinks she has a valid claim for damages against the United States for aiding and abetting the rebellion in Cuba by protecting the Virginius in its operations. Careful and skilful diplomacy will certainly be necessary to adjust peaceably the questions thus raised. Their difficulties are, of course, much increased by the state of things in Cuba. In the laudable desire to carry the Virginius affair to a peaceful issue, American grievances in the island have lately been perhaps too much overlooked, but they are not less real on that account. The American government cannot with credit allow such massacres as have taken place at Santiago and elsewhere to be repeated. American life and property in Cuba call for protection, and the feeling is very general that the rule of the Cuban volunteers cannot be permitted to continue much longer. In their atrocities and kindred abuses may os found some justification of the American neutrality of which the Spaniards complain.

If, by devoting his great abilities and knowledge to these troublesome questions, MR. CUSHING can remove the Cuban nuisance and thus maintain peace between his country and Spain, the achievement will form a fine and noble conclusion to a long series of valuable public services.

ADMITTED IMPERFECTIONS.

MR. BUCKALEW, at the meeting of the Constitutional Convention on the 27th inst., spoke of several "*apparent* imperfections" in the new Constitution, and MR. HARRY WHITE spoke of them as "*admitted* imperfections," which he regretted the Convention had now no power to correct. "*Admitted* imperfections" is good but it would have been much better if Messrs WHITE and BUCKALEW, and their coadjutors had had sufficient clearness of perception to see these now "admitted imperfections" before the Constitution was adopted, instead of after it. People who were not members of the Convention discovered them and pointed them out; and now the Convention itself recognizes them by admitting that they *are* imperfections. The Convention took a year to do its work, and did it botchingly; and then was mean enough to refuse the people sufficient time to go over it carefully and patiently.

Among these admitted imperfections in the Constitution is the failure in it to say when the first biennial session of the Legislature shall assemble under it. Mr. BUCKALEW sought to cure this by submitting a resolution on the subject, which was adopted. We quote from the report of the proceedings of the Convention at Harrisburg on the 27th:

"Mr. Buckalew submitted a resolution declaring, as the sense of the Convention, that the session of the General Assembly, to be held in the year 1875, will properly be held to be the first regular biennial session under the new Constitution. He remarked that his object was to remedy an apparent imperfection in the Constitution, his idea being that a unanimous declaration by the Convention that a certain course of action was in accordance with the spirit of its work, would substantially settle a matter about which there might be difficulty."

Another difficulty is about the pardoning power. We quote further:

"In a criticism upon several additional imperfections he [Mr. Buckalew] spoke of the wording of the Associate Judge provision as having the effect to turn these judges out of the Criminal and Orphans' Courts, and confine them to service in the Common Pleas where their services was not required. Again, the new Constitution prohibited the Governor from granting a pardon unless it be recommended by three State officials. Two of these would not be inducted into office for one whole year, and unless a strong construction was given to the new Constitution by the Governor and his advisers, it would follow that no pardon would be granted for one year. He supposed that from the necessities of the case those officials would be justified in holding that the new Constitution, so far as the granting of pardons by the Governor was concerned, did not go into effect until 1875. In that way the difficulty would be obviated, though the body of the Convention itself ought to make this declaration."

The Governor, however, is not given to making "strong" or forced interpretations of the Constitution, and it is much more probable that he will refuse, altogether, to exercise the pardoning power than that he will attempt to use it under a forced and extremely doubtful construction of an instrument just adopted by the people.

Besides all this, MR. BUCKALEW is sufficient of a lawyer to know that the new Constitution, just like all other instruments of its class, will be interpreted by the courts according to what it says, and not according to any intentions upon it by the Convention which framed it. The intentions of its framers are to be inferred only from the language they used, and no testimony extraneous thereto will be admitted in any legal controversy over it. The resolutions of the members of the Convention, therefore, giving *their* interpretation of it, are mere surplusage, and will not be heeded or recognized by the courts; and even if they could be so recognized, a Convention that admits the palpable imperfection of its work would hardly be accepted as an authority in construing or interpreting it.

For one, we put in a caveat, here and now, against what MR. BUCKALEW calls "a strong construction" of the new Constitution. By "strong" we presume he means not merely a liberal, but a constrained interpretation, wherever and whenever the circumstances may seem to justify it. Nothing could be more fatal, in our judgment, than the adoption of such a course. It is a well settled principle of constitutional law that Constitutions are to be construed strictly, and the only safety of the people is in adhering to that principle firmly. Loose and latitudinarian constructions are dangerous to liberty, and no matter what inconveniences may arise until the imperfections can be remedied, it is better to endure them than to establish a loose system of construing the fundamental law.

CABINET OFFICERS IN CONGRESS.

CALEB CUSHING, before he was appointed Minister to Spain, unearthed an old statute which empowers the House to require answers to its questions on financial subjects from the Secretary of the Treasury, "either in person or in writing." If the House chooses, therefore, it can at any time cite Secretary RICHARDSON before it and catechise him to its heart's content.

We have seen, as yet, no evidence of a purpose on the part of the House to exercise its prerogative in this respect; but if it has any such purpose it will act wisely in going one step further and adopting the plan proposed some years since by Mr. PENDLETON, of Ohio, which made the Cabinet ministers *ex-officio* members of the two Houses of Congress, and required them to be constantly present in one or the other, to answer any interrogatories that might be addressed to them concerning their respective departments.

This would be a legitimate following out of the practice which the old statute, raised from the dead by CUSHING, was intended to establish. It would bring Congress and the Cabinet face to face; and while experience might render it necessary to require that members should give notice a day in advance of inquiries to the Cabinet ministers, before pressing those inquiries, so as to enable each to answer understandingly and from the record, it would demonstrate the superiority of colloquial answers to written ones. It might, of course, keep out of the Treasury and the State Departments men who cannot stand up and speak out plainly for themselves; but we are not sure, upon close inquiry, that that would not be a gain instead of a loss. Cabinet officers would, of course, have to be chosen for their skill and experience in debate and in answering questions; and the probability is that the country would be all the better served, in consequence.

THE Mennonite colony, which recently emigrated to the United States in order to escape the burdensome military laws of Russia, have lately purchased sixteen thousand acres of choice lands in southern Nebraska. They are reported to exhibit every evidence of thrift, and are becoming remarkably acclimated and accustomed to the usages of the country. To each family is deeded a section of six hundred and forty acres. Many comfortable houses, together with barns and outbuildings, have been erected. The colonists have leased the most of the land which was broken during the year in the vicinity, paying therefore a cash rental. Teams, grain for seed, farming implements, and everything necessary for successful cultivation are being purchased ready for spring operations. They are said to be passionately fond of music, and delight in choral singing, and their home circles are described as models of propriety and affection. They complain somewhat that their religious interests have been misrepresented by the press. The term Quaker or Mennonite, it seems, is not properly applied to them, for they claim to be, in every essential particular, Presbyterian, their worship and church government being the same. Neither, they state, is it true that they are non-resistants, or at least at all times opposed to war. It was the long term of military service required of them in the old countries which was distasteful, consuming as it did the best years of a man's life. If there should be a war in which our government needed soldiers, it would find none more ready to respond to a call for troops than this colony. It is only unjust and long continued service that they object to. They express themselves as pleased with what they have seen here, and render a willing obedience to our country's customs and laws. They are expending every dollar of the half million of dollars which they brought with them, in the purchase of lands and in improvements. They will form a valuable accession to the population of that young, thrifty State, for the moral intrepidity of [illegible] generations is in their blood.

THE New Year opens with a gratifying revival of manufacturing industry in the Eastern portion of this State. The iron manufacturing interests of the Lehigh and Schuylkill valleys, which were greatly depressed during the financial panic, have almost recovered from the depression. In the Schuylkill district fifty three out of the seventy-three furnaces are now in full operation, and orders are said to be sufficient to afford the manufacturers comparatively good profits. It is stated that the trade shows a better appearance than at any time since September last. The representative iron manufactories of the Lehigh valley, among which are the Bethlehem Iron Works and Allentown Rolling Mill Company, are also in regular working condition, thousands of persons being employed [illegible] through the winter. The Schuylkill Haven Rolling Mill and Spike Manufacturing Company have also commenced work, and are turning out large orders daily.

Hon. George V. Lawrence and the Lieutenant Governorship.

MONONGAHELA CITY, December 30, 1873.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

I observe, in your issue of this morning, a communication (written doubtless by some friend), naming me for Lieutenant Governor under the new Constitution. As I have had nothing to do with the formation of the instrument by which this office is created, and consulted it before the people (not as perfect in all its provisions, for some of these I did not approve), but better suited to the advanced condition of the State than that of 1838, I would be placed in a most delicate and undesirable position by this early in the field announcement, did I not *at once* say I do not ask nor seek any office, and much less one created in part by my own act and rate.

Yours truly,
GEORGE V. LAWRENCE.

Astronomical Discoveries of the Year.

The following brief sketch of the progress of astronomy during the year 1873 may not be without interest to some of our readers. New Asteroids—Seven minor planets have been discovered since the commencement of the current year, all in our own country. Four of these were detected by Professor Watson of Ann Arbor; three by Dr. Peters of Clinton, New York. Only two between these equally distinguished observers has been recently quite interesting. The astronomer of Clinton is still slightly ahead, though closely pressed by his industrious rival. The discoveries of the present year make the whole number of known asteroids 134. Comets—Beside the return of three period comets previously observed, four others have passed their perihelia during the year 1873. On the 3d of April, M. Stephan of Marseilles detected the second comet of 1867. This body, on its first observed approach to the sun, was discovered by M. Tempel. Its period, which is a little over six years, varies considerably on account of Jupiter's disturbing influence. Its orbit approaches more nearly the circular form than that of any other known comet. Two other comets of short period—those of Brorsen and Faye—were rediscovered by the same fortunate observer. Their perihelia passages fell on the 23d of September. On the 3d of July, M. Tempel, of Milan, discovered a telescopic comet, which proved to be a member of the Jovian groupe. Its period is five years and two months; its motion is direct, and its orbit has about the same eccentricity as that of Faye's comet. Its discovery was the only remarkable phenomena of special interest. It is remarkable that while the seven asteroids were all discovered in America, the seven comets were all detected in Europe.

Mistaken Identity.

A very remarkable case of mistaken identity recently occurred in London. A few weeks ago an old man went down in the doorway of a large shop and suddenly died. Some of the passers by recognized him as a man who had been in the employment of the gas company, and nine or ten of the men in that service identified the body as that of their fellow-workman. A deputation of their number was appointed to wait on his wife, who, after listening to them for a short time, told them her husband was up stairs in bed. This turned out to be the fact. The body was removed to the workhouse mortuary, where it was identified by about fourteen of the officers as that of a pauper who had been in the workhouse from twelve to fifteen months and intelligence of the death was sent to his daughters in Manchester. One of the sons-in-law came up and identified the body as that of his father-in-law, and expressed deep sorrow at the death. An inquest was held, at which the daughters attended and swore unreservedly to the fact that the father, and, after cutting off a lock of his hair, directed an undertaker to conduct the funeral, at which they attended as mourners. On their return home they related the circumstances connected with the death to some friends in Devonshire, who replied in the course of a fortnight that the old man was still living there and in good health. The son-in-law wrote to the undertaker's, saying he did not wish to incur expense in burying a stranger. The clerk suggested that a reply should be sent expressing regret at the mistake, and hoping that it would not occur again. Some of the officers still refused to believe that the old man was alive, and one of them was the correspondence with him to prove that he was mistaken.

Among the maxims of the American Commune is one prescribing that "talented children" are to be brought up at public expense. Ah! but who will venture to decide who are talented and who are not? What committee would dare face an angry Commune mother and tell her that her blessed babe was not a genius?

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

A Happy New Year! Welcome the new year of the world!

A good motto for to-day: "Know all men by these presents."

Now wreathe the face with heartfelt smiles, and bathe in the stream of youth again. There is no growing old for such as cherish this recurring feeling of immortality. All should be young to-day, and all brethren.

When the young lady of the house stands before him with the brimming cup, it is difficult for the young man who is making his New Year's call, to resist.

The tragedies of Christmas day, let us hope, will be a warning against the vice of intemperance to-day.

The good which men do lives after them. The beauty and power of high influences remain almost incestructible.

The owners of the *Christian at Work*, of which Dr. Talmadge is editor, want to buy out the *Independent*.

A clearing house for the railroads, after the established custom in England, is suggested at Chicago. The United States borrowed the clearing house system for banks from England, and the custom has proved a wise one to all interested.

A vessel of six hundred tons has got both of her anchors entangled with the Atlantic cable in the gut of Canso.

The educators of the West are in session this week in their respective States. The State Teachers' Associations of Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan are holding their annual conventions.

John Bright has written a letter on the liquor question, in which he holds that the only solution of the problem lies in a duly regulated license system, governed by public opinion and the control exercised through municipal representatives.

How very thoughtful it was of the "Virginius" to settle the complications in regard to her possession by settling herself down among the coral beds!

The New York *Herald* delights in startling contrasts. Last Monday's issue had a lot of assignation advertisements on one page, and a number of sermons on another.

The Masons of Philadelphia have invited the Grand Masonic lodges of the world to send representatives to form a congress to meet at the great Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia on the Fourth of July, 1876, for the purpose of revision of the work of the order.

It has reached Canada. The Dominion Southern Railroad Company has issued a circular to its bondholders, stating that, owing to the financial difficulties growing out of the late panic, a large amount of the funds of the company have been tied up, and, though secure, are now unavailable.

The latest guess is as follows: Secretary of the Treasury, Schenck; Secretary of the Interior, Richardson; Envoy Extraordinary and Minister to England, Delano.

The Californians are following up the late many-handed struggle in their Legislature by an agitation in favor of getting the election of United States Senators directly to the people.

The women of Philadelphia have in contemplation a grand ball at the Academy of Music, on the 23d of February, the proceeds to be devoted to Centennial purposes.

The New York banks are announcing their semi-annual dividends, which are very generally the same as made at corresponding time last year—4@5 per cent.—showing that the September panic has not interrupted their profits.

The trunk lines of railroad have agreed upon a schedule of winter freights to take effect on and after to-day. The advance is from twenty to thirty-five per cent. In other years this schedule has been made a month earlier than now.

Is it not a little singular that, while there is no lack of those who can explain the past and predict the future, yet, when the present is concerned, the present that we see and feel, everybody's opinions about it are generally bewildered and mistaken?

Charity this winter appears to be taking to an unusual extent the channel of amateur theatricals. Many good people look askance on this form of benevolence, but it seems at least as harmless as the balls and fairs which charity invokes so plentifully in its service.

And now the newspapers of Sweden are complaining of the emigration from that country to America, the official reports showing that 165,302 persons have left since 1861.

The library of Congress now contains 269,000 volumes and 48,000 pamphlets. The increase during the year ending with the present month, was 12,407 volumes. At this rate of increase the library will have half a million [illegible]

An industry is raised by some of the exhibitors at the Vienna Exposition why the medals awarded are not forthcoming. There seems to be a hitch somewhere.

The growth of lake commerce during the past year has been unexampled. Fifty new steamers have been added to the lake fleets against twenty-seven in 1872, and one hundred and fifty-two sail craft against fifty-two in 1872. The total increase in tonnage is 97,054.

The culture of the sugar-cane, which has to a great extent been abandoned on the low lands of Louisiana, will in the future be largely prosecuted on the pine lands of Mississippi and Alabama.

A Minnesota mechanic has solved a difficult problem in railroading by the invention of a snow shovel, which clears a roadway wide enough to allow the cars to pass, taken all the snow that presents itself in front, and, up, deposits on whichever side preferred, at a speed of from two to six miles an hour, according to the depth of snow.

The immigration the present year is not so large as during 1872. Down to December 20, there were 266,011 immigrants landed at New York, the number for the corresponding period of last year having been 292,937, a decrease of 26,922.

Copper mining is being revived in the vicinity of Mineral Point, Wisconsin. Samples of ore have been sent to England, and reports returned show that it yields twenty to fifty per cent., far above the average of English ores.

PERSONAL.

President Grant is reported to be contemplating the purchase of a lot on Vermont avenue, Washington, and the erection of a house in which to reside after the expiration of his term of office.

A fearful warning to young ladies against drinking water, or against marrying a geologist, is given in the astounding if not incredible story of a Louisiana physician. A beautiful girl of sixteen was married to a lawyer in Louisiana, who was also a geologist. The next day she went into his "Rock Study" broke open an Arkansas bowlder, and drank the water found in the middle of it. She died in fifteen minutes, and three-quarters of an hour her body was a piece of carrion. This is the story. It is a fearful warning to girls of sixteen.

The recent death of old Ishmael Day recalls one of the most notable incidents of the great war, an incident which, insignificant in itself, electrified the community in its stirring proclamation that the sturdy every-man-for-himself patriotism of the old days still lived. Ishmael Day was an old farmer of above three score and ten, but a young man with the fire of patriotism as the [illegible] of Wyoming made his dashing raid into Maryland, in which the old man was living on his farm in Baltimore county. Over his house floated the stars and stripes, defying the invading rebels. A soldier of the gray attempted to haul down the old flag, and the venerable but sturdy old patriot, leaping up to avenge the insult, "shot him on the spot." Ishmael Day exemplified the patriotism that never dies except with life.

Apropos of Caleb Cushing's appointment as Minister to Madrid, some forty or fifty years ago, when Caleb Cushing was an ambitious attorney at Newbury, Mass., a malden poetess there, named Gould, wrote the following epitaph on him:

He aside all ye dead,
For in the next bed
Lies buried the body of Cushing;
Since he, when alive,
Would incessantly strive,
And now he is dead may be pushing.

An absurd story in the Chicago papers about the "suicide of Rebecca Harding Davis, the authoress," may mislead the friends of a brilliant and widely admired author. It seems that some person whose real name was Stevens, and who had taken a fancy to call herself by Mrs. Davis's name, did commit suicide lately at Ypsilanti. Mrs. Rebecca Harding Davis, it is scarcely necessary to say, is living quietly in her charming house in Philadelphia.

The value of the estate of the late Johns Hopkins of Baltimore amounts to $10,000,000. Of this amount $2,500,000 is bequeathed to John Hopkins University; $3,500,000 to Johns Hopkins Hospital; $20,000 to the Baltimore manual Labor School; $10,000 to the Baltimore Institute of the Academy of Design; $10,000 to the Baltimore Home of the Friendless; $10,000 to the Baltimore Orphan Asylum and the rest to his children and relatives.

Col. Baker, of the *Illinois State Journal*, has received the appointment of Consul to Buenos Ayres.

This is more strange than Holmes's "Elsie Venner." A young girl in Iowa is wonderfully marked by rattlesnakes. Running partially around her neck, side by side, are two snakes as natural as if alive, and the skin being transparent they seem only lying in wait for a victim. On the front of the neck and upper part of the breast are the rattles—as though a breast pin—making a perfect picture and shedding regularly every year.

STATE NEWS.

The Johnstown Mechanical Works are advertised for sale.

Chester is to have a new forty acre cemetery.

$175,000 is the security required of the county treasurer in Bucks.

Alfred Baer died in Tuscarora, Schuylkill county, on the 20th, of too much whisky.

The State branch of the Emerald Beneficial Association will meet in Reading on the 13th of January.

Mrs. Taylor, of West Chester, has had four pairs of twins. Mrs. Hannah Sponogle, of West Nantmeal, same county, "sees this and goes one pair better"—she has had five pairs.

Joseph W. Brown, a tailor, was found dead in his bed at Williamsport on Sunday morning. He was seventy years old, and of intemperate habits.

About sixty new dwelling houses have been erected in the boroughs of East Conemaugh and Franklin, Cambrir county, during the past year.

John Murphy was knocked down in Williamsport, in broad daylight, and robbed of $125 by three men. Two of the scoundrels are in jail.

Columbia is doing a good work which is worthy of all praise. A relief society has been formed, and its citizens are doing all that benevolence and wisdom can do for the relief of the destitute. Work has been provided for all who are willing to work, at fair wages, by that borough, and on the 4th of January the Columbia Steel and Iron Works will start up again, giving employment to several hundred men and boys.

Rev. Father Maher, of St Patrick's Catholic Church, in Norristown, died suddenly on Sunday morning of heart disease.

Scarlet fever, it is said, rages with much virulence in the northern section of Lancaster county. Within the last few weeks quite a number of children have died, and many are now afflicted with it in the most malignant form.

Six thousand barrels of flour and fifteen thousand bushels of wheat were among the cargo of the Pennsylvania in her last trip from Philadelphia. The grain and flour trade from that port is monthly on the increase, and furnishes constant freight to the new line of steamships.

Pottstown has two policemen, who are expected to guard a town of seven thousand inhabitants, and patrol a district a mile in length and half a mile in breadth, and be right on the spot to quell any disturbance that may occur, even if half a dozen fights or riots should take place in as many different parts of the town.

The first number of the *Farmer's Friend*, the official organ of Pennsylvania Grangers, will be issued this week from the office of the *Independent Journal*, Mechanicsburg.

Coal miners have been out of work for some time in Hubbard, Trumbull county, the rolling mill has suspended business, and sulphuric acid has been thrown into the faces of several citizens. Two men had their eyes put out, and the community is now anxiously waiting to learn what punishment will be inflicted upon the perpetrators.

Following is a list of aged citizens who died in Philadelphia last week: Mary Hutchison, aged 80; Elizabeth Lutz, 80; Eliza Smith, 81; Keziah Stevenson, 81; Peter Rice, 83; Thomas Stowe,

Strike of the Engineers.

Crestline.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

CRESTLINE, O., December 30, 1873.

The patience and forbearance of the officials of the railroad apparently became exhausted last night, for the general foreman of the company's shops at this point finally stated to the persisting engineers that but one course was open to them if they wished to return to their engines, and that was to surrender unconditionally to the company's orders at once, or take their discharge certificates, draw their pay and leave the service of the road for all time. This had the effect of bringing all but one or two of the leaders to terms and, as a consequence, the freight trains began moving between here and Alliance to-day, while the passenger trains continue to run on time the entire length of the road. David Peppard, foreman of the round house here, and a leading officer of the Brotherhood organization, ran the engine on the Pittsburgh express from here to Alliance this morning—another evidence that the Brotherhood disconntenances the strike—and although it will take several days to restore trains to their former regularity, the back-bone of the rebellion is undoubtedly broken. No disturbances have occurred and none are apprehended, although the companies have taken the precaution to secure the services of an ample police force on a moment's call, in case of any attempts at intimidation from reckless or transient characters. John F. Thompson is the name of the engineer of the first freight train to leave Alliance to-day for the west. In the face of all the opposition on that point, the Western Division engineers continue firm in their resolution not to join the strikers. Engineers from a distance have arrived and found ready employment here and at Pittsburgh, which is an evidence of the company's determination to dispense with the services of the ringleaders. Public opinion is strongly in favor of the company all along the line of the road.

Alliance, O.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

ALLIANCE, O., December 30, 1873.

The striking engineers are very quiet and orderly here to-day. All passenger trains have been run on time by old and experienced engineers. The strikers have had committees wait on these men to induce them to quit work, but so far have failed. Four freight trains are running between Alliance and Crestline, and three east of Alliance. A sufficient police force is on hand to protect all the men at work.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

ALLIANCE, O., December 30, 1873.

As there seems to be a misunderstanding as to the conduct of the railroad strikers at this point, I wish to inform the readers of your valuable sheet, that the best order prevails, the men all the time counseling the observance of law and order. It is true that some few policemen were brought here from Cleveland by the Company, owing to the number of strikers laying here; but in reality there was no cause for it whatever, as no demonstration has yet been made by the men to do violence to either property or person. The fact is, I think, that the men, who have been misrepresented by parties who seem to desire trouble instead of quiet. The men confine themselves most of the time to their room, citizens are somewhat divided in opinion as to the course of the men and the Company; but all parties desire that no violence shall be resorted to under any event. Mono.

Fort Wayne.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, IND., December 30, 1873.

Matters on the Wabash road are going smoothly. The fears of a strike, which have been entertained the last few days, have passed away. The officials are firm, and the men have about concluded that the best thing to do is to go on with their work. Not a man on the Western Division of the Fort Wayne road has quit work. The prospects are that there will be no trouble. All passenger trains are on time, but freight business is very light.

No signs of trouble have exhibited itself on the Muncie and Richmond, Grand Rapids or Saginaw roads, and it is certain that the backbone of the strike is broken, and within a couple of days everything will be harmonious.

Logansport, Ind.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

LOGANSPORT, IND., December 30, 1873.

A squad of twenty picked Indianapolis police, armed with Spencer rifles, arrived early this morning. There has been no violence offered to-day, and most trains have all been run on the second and third divisions of the Indianapolis and Chicago division of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railroad. Large numbers are deserting the ranks of the strikers and coming to the side of law and order. Engineers sufficient to supply the places of the strikers are easily being obtained, and it is expected that all trains will be running in two or three days. Conductors, brakemen and employees generally have formed themselves into squads, and are protecting the company's property. Handbills, offering $1,000 reward for information which will lead to the arrest and conviction of any parties interfering with the company's property or employees, have been circulated over all the divisions, putting all the country authorities on the lookout. Engineer Keelan, of the Detroit and Eel River Road, accidentally shot brakeman Beidler, of the same road, in the left breast, here this morning. Keelan is being held, awaiting the result of Beidler's wound.

GOOD-BYE, VIRGINIUS.

Report of the Foundering of the Vessel Confirmed—Landing of the Survivors from Her Late Crew.

NEW YORK, December 30.—Lieutenant Commander Haswell, of the Ossipee, made the following statement to day concerning the loss of the Virginius: The Ossipee left the Tortugas, with the Virginius in tow, on the morning of the 19th instant. They had fair weather until the afternoon of Saturday, and the following day, when a gale sprung up. They continued to have bad weather, and when the Virginius was signaled she was leaking badly. Captain Walters, therefore, determined to shape his course for Port Antonio, South Carolina, but as they got into smooth water the Virginius behaved better, and the water was kept out of her fire room. On the morning of Christmas day, however, the waves were again having sand as bed as ever. The vessels put into the Frying Pan shoals, about ten miles south of Cape Fear light, where smooth water could be obtained. Here the vessels came to anchor, Capt. Walters hoping the Virginius would ride out the gale. Before daylight the next morning (Friday), Commander Haswell signalled with lights that the Virginius was leaking rapidly, with fires out and pumps stopped, and the crew wished to be taken off. Boats were lowered from the Ossipee at daylight, and by 7 A. M. all on board the Virginius were transferred to the former vessel. As a heavy sea was running the work of removing the crew was one of much danger and difficulty, and therefore no lives were risked in endeavoring to save their personal effects, or any other property of the Virginius. They however, as Virginius was cut and a buoy attached, to mark her position, in case she sank out of sight. The Ossipee remained at anchor during the day, and at a quarter past four o'clock P. M. the Virginius, which had been gradually settling, went to the bottom. She sank in eight fathoms of water, and her top-masts remained above the surface. The Ossipee then resumed her voyage to this port. The naval officers were very reticent to-day, and the above statement was not obtained until the United States District Attorney was communicated with and removed the seal of secrecy.

The released captives of the Virginius remain at a Cuban restaurant on Pine street, and the scene there this morning was one of great enthusiasm. Resolutions were adopted giving thanks to Commodore Braine, of the Juniata, for his kindness, and expressing sympathy with him in the loss of his son. The ex-captives also resolved to attend the funeral of his child.

After the landing at the yard last evening of the surviving members of the passengers and crew of the steamer Virginius, they marched in an irregular line to the Fulton Ferry, taking the boat there to New York, and thence proceeding to the Cuban restaurant on Pine street where they were hospitably entertained. They were clad in the navy uniform of the United States, and marched briskly through the streets, showing no signs of recent suffering. When transferred to the boat from the steamer Juniata, which carried them to this port from Santiago, they gave rousing cheers for their several benefactors, leading off with three cheers for the commander of the British steamer Niobe, to whom they feel indebted for the preservation of their lives.

Lieutenant David C. Woodrow, who was in command of the Virginius at the time of her sinking, says in his official report that when he took command on the 17th at the Dry Tortugas, the vessel had water in all its compartments. Stores were received on board, and a working party from the Ossipee coaled the ship all night. The next morning they stopped coaling, as all hands were required at work pumping and bailing, the water having gained two feet during the night. At 8 A. M. the water was up to the grate bars in both fire rooms. The forward compartment had a depth of four feet, and the after compartment two feet six inches of water. At 4 P. M. the water was so much reduced that fires were started in the boilers. Lieutenant Whiting expressed himself satisfied that the Virginius was in fit condition to start North, and about two o'clock she went in tow of the Ossipee. As long as the sea was smooth everything progressed favorably, but a storm arising the vessel leaked so badly that they had to plug the holes in the forward bulkhead to keep the fire rooms clear. On the 22d they threw overboard the port lower anchor and all heavy weights in the hold, and shifted coal to lighten her forward. On the afternoon of the 23d there was from eight to ten feet of water in the forward compartments. The men were worn out, and the bunks being drenched, had no place to sleep. Under these circumstances, Woodrow advised the commander of the Ossipee not to go further north, but to take the Virginius into Charleston, where there was a dock. At 10 P. M. the boilers were in such a wretched condition that it was impossible to carry more than five pounds of steam. At 3 A. M. on the 26th the water gained so fast as to put out the fires, and Woodrow signaled the Ossipee to take the crew off the Virginius immediately. At this time the forward compartment was full of water up to within a foot and a half of the spar deck, with five feet of water in the hold, water over the grate bars in the fire rooms and the after compartment dry. The sea was very rough, and it was blowing a gale. When a boat from the Ossipee came under the Virginius' bow, the landsmen were put on first. It took five trips to take all the officers and men off the sinking vessel. At 5.17 P. M. the Virginius sunk, bows first, in eight fathoms of water, and the cross-trees above water. For four days men in the fire room worked in water up to their knees and at the time they left the ship were nearly exhausted.

A PAUPER MILLIONAIRE.

An Heir to Thirty-Three Millions Dies in the Poor House.

[From the Dayton (O.) Journal.]

In 1804 there came to Dayton a man who gave his name as Benjamin Macke, and was engaged at intervals as a paper hanger. He was about fifty-five years of age, very poor and very proud. He was evidently a foreigner, but it was difficult to determine to what nationality he belonged, as he never communicated, even to his most intimate acquaintances, anything in regard to his history. He was soon overtaken by ill health, and so reduced financially that he was compelled to seek an asylum in the County Infirmary, where he died in 1867, unknown, and since that time unthought of. But recently it has transpired that at the time of Macke's death he was entitled to the possession of

AS ESTATE OF THIRTY-THREE MILLIONS

of dollars, which makes his previous history a matter of some consequence. The name by which he was known in Dayton, and at the County Infirmary was an assumed one. His real name is said to have been Alfonso Barrano, and he was a native of one of the Basque Provinces of Spain, where every native considers himself a nobleman, and where the proud spirit of the people has never yet been subdued by their conquerors. Barrano married in his native country, and soon after the birth of his first child the young wife and mother died, leaving the bereaved husband and father but one object for love, and that was his daughter. It is to be supposed that he loved her most tenderly, for although he was comparatively a poor man, in a country where there were but few educational facilities, yet he gave her a finished education, sending her to foreign parts for that purpose. She grew up to womanhood, when she, with her father, came to America, landing at New Orleans, where they stopped, and opened a fruit stand. The beauty and cultivated manners of the daughter attracted a good share of custom, and among others whose attention was directed to the pretty fruit girl of Carondelet street was a rich planter of Louisiana, by the name of Giroud, who spent his winters in the city. As the reader by this time suspects, Giroud made the humble fruit dealer's daughter his wife. These are the facts of the previous history of Macke or Barrano, as we gather them from a gentleman of this city, who has been employed for years as counsel of the Spanish Legation at Washington, to investigate the circumstances of his residence and death in this city and county, with a view to establishing the heirship of Benjamin Macke, who died in the Infirmary of this county in 1867, is the same Barrano who came from Biscay to New Orleans, where his daughter married as above related. But to return to the story. The poor fruit dealer was destined to realize

THE INGRATITUDE SHARPER THAN A SERPENT'S TOOTH.

After his daughter married, at the instance of her proud and wealthy husband, she virtually renounced her father, and sought to settle a fortune upon him which would be amply sufficient to keep him in comfortable circumstances for the rest of his life. But, as one of the implied conditions of this generosity was that Barrano should not be known as the father recognized as the father of his daughter, he indignantly spurned it, and with a desolate and heavy heart he left New Orleans and went to Louisville, Ky., from which point he wrote his daughter, Mrs. Giroud, requesting her to write and address him in the name of Benjamin Macke. This gave her the clue by which she has since probably found him to his miserable grave. From Louisville Barrano came to Dayton, where he lived and died as has been related. But as time wore apace there was

A CHANGE IN FORTUNE

with Mrs. Giroud. Her husband entered the Southern army and was killed, and his property, which consisted chiefly in slaves, was swept away as one of the results of the struggle in which he took part. The widow disposed of the plantation for Confederate money, so that when the war closed she was very poor. Her position as a fruit dealer's daughter would have been luxury in comparison with her position, burdened as she was by the care of two children, the fruits of her marriage with Giroud. She went to New Orleans and again opened a little fruit stand, and wrote and advertised for her father at every point where she thought a communication would reach him, but nothing could be heard from any source. She led a life of misery enough, until one day scanning over the list of advertised letters, her eye fell upon a letter advertised for her in her maiden name. She went to the postoffice, and the letter was delivered to her she found that it was from a schoolmate who had gone to school with her in France. The communication contained

SOME INTELLIGENCE ABOUT AN UNKNOWN UNCLE

and a princely estate to which the Barrano family of Biscay were entitled. And as the reader by this time has begun to inquire in his mind, where the estate to which the Montgomery county pauper was entitled, comes in, we will go back to the letter and relate how it came about. It seems that Alfonso Barrano had an elder brother, who ran away from home in early life, went to sea, and went to sea. What his adventures were, or how he got his start in the world is unknown, but in 1866, it has been ascertained that he died in the Philippine Islands, a portion of the Spanish possessions in the East Indies, in possession of an estate valued at $33,000,000. If he had heirs they were unknown, but it was ascertained that the letter originally came from one of the Basque Provinces, the fact of his death and an account of his estate were communicated to the authorities of Biscay. The matter there became one of great interest, and was probly talked about very generally, and this talk prompted the letter which we have referred to. It was ascertained that Alfonso Barrano, or his representatives, if living, were the legal heirs of the deceased millionaire. So then commenced

A SEARCH FOR AS HEIR,

which has continued for years, and which is gradually developing as fast as thrilling in interest as any recorded in the world of fiction. The representatives of the Spanish government throughout the world have been charged with the duty to find out the whereabouts of Alfonso Barrano, or his representatives, and it is possible that no clue would ever have been obtained had it not been for the letter of Mrs. Giroud's received from an associate of her youth. The establishment of the fact that Macke, the man who died in the Infirmary in this county, is one and the same person with Alfonso Barrano, of New Orleans, will not be conclusive, yet it is an important fact for Mrs. Giroud, and when she succeeds in establishing it, there will be no question between her and the succession to the estate, and it is likely, that being personally known in Biscay, before she left that country, she can establish her own identity.

THE FOG IN LONDON.

Loss of Life in the Streets and on the Canals—Extraordinary Mortality Among the Beasts at the Smithfield Cattle Show.

A London letter to the *World* says:

"This is the third day of the extraordinary fog which has almost paralyzed all life in London since Tuesday morning. On Tuesday the fog caused the loss of four lives, and injuries by the score; yesterday four other persons are known to have drowned in the canals, and from the large number of missing persons reported to the police, it is feared that many others have met with the same fate. But the most extraordinary disaster caused by the fog has been the effect produced by it upon the cattle on exhibition at the annual show of the Smithfield Club, in Agricultural Hall. On Monday, when the door was opened, there was not a single case of indisposition among the large number of cattle that paraded before the judges, and at the present writing at least a third of the entire collection is missing from their stalls. The simple explanation that is given is that it is the long continuance of fog visiting the cattle, and that it has occasioned such wholesale destruction amongst the beasts. Anyway, the dismal fact is that since early yesterday morning at least twenty-five fine exhibited animals, many of them the chief prize-holders, have either died or been slaughtered for the sake of saving the value of carcasses, while at seven o'clock last evening a careful enumeration of the empty stalls disclosed the startling truth that it had been thought prudent to remove ninety-three of the unfortunate creatures. Hundreds of the lesser varieties of the cattle-yard, all yesterday afternoon and evening presented a strange appearance. In the fog and by link-light there was ranged in a long line that extends from beyond the Liverpool road, a large number of those peculiarly shaped vehicles used for the conveyance of sick and disabled animals, or, as lumbering, clattering boxes on wheels, but known amongst the fraternity that affect them as "floats"—and each in its turn drew up to the yard gates to receive its sorry freight—large and ugly to make room for the next, and the next, of a line that seemed to be endless. Within the building the spectacle was strange and striking. The attendance of visitors was as great as usual on a second shilling day, possibly greater, on account of the rumor that had got abroad of the startling mortality that had seized on the largest animals; but the stalls are not more than a third filled.

"The fog plague had stricken the poor creatures in the most erratic manner. Here in a whole long row not more than half a dozen vacant stalls might be counted, while in that immediately adjoining as many as five-and-twenty description boards hung idle, many of them gay in decorative festoons and ribbons that denote animals that are specially distinguished. Big and little oxen had alike fallen victims, the giant of four-and-twenty hundred weight and the compact steer of barely seventeen. Even the tough and wiry natives of the Highlands, with their enormous breadth and depth of chest and healthful ness of lungs, have in many cases been unable to hold out against the deadly gray mist that seemed to be almost as inimical to brute life as fumes of charcoal are to human. It is not necessary to say that will be the result supposing that, as on Tuesday, the fog increases and grows blacker and denser towards midnight. It is quite evident that there are scores of the unfortunate creatures who are but ill-prepared for a prolongation of the attack of the wondrous enemy. Within an hour of closing time last night there was not a single beast on the place, all were lying or kneeling down, and many of them gasping, and with froth on their mouth and nostrils, denoting their pitiable condition. It was a sight that the great majority of the visitors had not reckoned on, and instead of, as on ordinary occasions, passing on with all convenient speed along the various avenues, taking a note as they went, now were to be seen in fifty different places groups of a hundred or so of men and women crowding around a luckless beast, and unintentionally diminishing his scanty chances of existence. Strangely enough, neither the sheep nor the pigs are to any alarming extent affected by the fog. The latter snore and gasp and make apoplectic gurgling noises in their throats no less and no more than usual, and the sheep, though far from lively, exhibit no grave symptoms."

THE ENGINEERS' STRIKE.

Improved Prospects for the Railroads.

STRIKE ON THE CENTRAL ROAD NOT PROBABLE

The Valley Road to Cut Down Ten Per Cent—Another Meeting of the Strikers.

Nothing new has transpired in regard to the strike of the engineers and firemen on the Western railroads, and it is confidently asserted that no organized opposition will take place on the Pennsylvania Central. The roads now under the ban are being rapidly cased from their embarrassment, both by former employees returning and the engagement of new ones. It is anticipated that in a few days they will have so far recovered that a considerable amount of freight will be moved. By our report below it will be seen that another meeting was held in Allegheny yesterday, not so largely attended, however, as former ones. The same spirit of resistance continues among the majority, but there are sure signs of weakness in the organization. It is denied that there is any trouble on the Lake Shore road.

Officers of the Pennsylvania Central road state that the indications are that there will be no strike on that road at all; that the engineers and firemen have grown up with the road; that they have made their little homes while at work upon the line and can ill afford to go out upon a strike, if the justice of the company's action in proposing a reduction can be established. In other words, they rely on the fact that the engineers on the Pennsylvania Railroad are too sensible to inaugurate a strike so long as they are dealt with fairly.

Notice of reduction of ten per cent. on the Allegheny Valley Railroad has been given, and a conference between the officials and the employees is to be had. The probabilities are that there will be no trouble.

MEETING OF THE STRIKERS YESTERDAY.

Another meeting of the strikers, and other railroaders in sympathy with them, was held in Odd Fellows' Hall, Manchester, yesterday afternoon. About three hundred were present. The meeting was called to give engineers and firemen opportunity to publicly express their views upon the action of the companies and to show their determination to remain steadfast in their resolution.

After calling the meeting to order, President Sample made a few remarks. He was rejoiced to see so many present, as he considered it an evidence of their willingness to stick shoulder to shoulder in their common movement. Yet some of the engineers had not dealt fairly by him. Some had returned to work. He thought, however, that those present were willing to hold up his hands, and asked as many as were to do so to rise. (All present arose.) He said the Pennsylvania Central Company also had notified their employees of a reduction of wages, and refused from their wages has been ordered and will go into effect on the 1st of January. Those engineers will not submit to a reduction either. Then he gave them the report of the meeting of Brotherhood No. 50, held on Sunday night. He stated that a committee of engineers from the Allegheny Valley road had waited on him Sunday, and that the reduction ordered by that company will not be submitted to by their engineers either. Mr. Sample then talked of the requirements of an engineer, and told of numbers of green hands who are now running and who are destroying the machinery. In his interview with Mr. McCullough he was told that perhaps an additional reduction of ten per cent. will be made.

REPORT OF REMARKS.

Secretary Gregory was introduced, and stated that he had cheering news to impart. He said that the vast majority of engineers on the roads west of Pittsburgh and east of St. Louis were still d etermined to hold out. Concerning the communication which he had received from Mr. McCullough, he stated that the demand of the strikers is that old men, engineers and firemen, should be reinstated in their position. He wished the firemen to understand that their positions will be given them if the companies accede to their requests.

MR. MCDONALD SPEAKS.

Mr. McDonald, an engineer of the Allegheny Valley Railroad, said: "I am not employed by a road under the strikers, nor am I a striker myself. Yet I feel a deep interest in this meeting, and my sympathies are with you, gentlemen. The causes of this strike have been engendering for the past three years. The arrogance and tyranny of the officials on the Pennsylvania and their lesser roads have been growing for the last three years, and have now become unendurable. Had these officials done their business they would have stated their financial difficulties to the engineers and asked them to support the reduction request would have been granted. The reduction was a breach of contract on the part of the officials, and instead of apologizing for this breach they demanded a reduction. Managers of the roads have been making statements to the public as to the characters of the men, because they desired to place themselves in a favorable light. On the Pan Handle road the men are getting $4 25 a day, as the managers say. But that was only for first class men. Fourth class men get only $2 00. That fact the managers suppressed. Two days ago a fireman was publicly discharged from that road for drunkenness and inability," are now running on the road, hauling thousands of passengers. These men are not competent for their positions, and no policy will demand the officials to take the old hands back." Concerning the notice from Charles Wilson to the Brotherhood, advising them to return to work, Mr. Wilson was Great Chief, but he had nothing to do with the strike, and therefore should not interfere. Neither the Brotherhood have anything with it. Wilson's assertion that it would not be dishonorable for a member of the Brotherhood to take a position is a wilful misstatement. He also said that the Allegheny Valley road proposed making a reduction and that

FOUR ENGINEERS AND ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT KING

held a consultation about the matter in the morning. The engineers were called in by Mr. King for that purpose. The latter made proposition that the company would allow them to submit to a reduction of ten per cent. provided the company abolished classes. That is the first class engineers would submit to a reduction provided that reduction be added to the wages of lower class men. Second, they were willing that the company should reduce the pay to present a certain percentage of their wages, provided pledges were given that the amount be paid hereafter. These propositions were made by the four engineers who were in consultation with the assistant superintendent, but they did not represent those not present. They thought, however, that their brothers would heartily endorse these propositions. The consultation was very agreeable and pleasant to both sides though nothing definite had grown out of it. Mr. McDonald highly commended this action of Mr. King, stating that if the managers of the other roads had acted likewise, there would probably have been no strike. He urged the men to still hold out, predicting that in a very short time the officials would be compelled to take them back at their former wages.

Remarks were also made by Messrs. McDonald, of the C. & P. road, Cummings, of the P., Ft. W. & C. road, Haley, of the Pan Handle road, and by the Secretary. Each of these gentlemen expressed their determination of sticking it out till the last and urged all present to do likewise. They were sorry that the strike had occurred; sorry they had been driven to it, but now that it had occurred they intended to fight it through. The treasurer made a statement of the expenses incurred by the meetings and suggested that another collection be taken up to defray those expenses. After the collection meeting adjourned to meet at three o'clock this afternoon at the same place. It is expected that the committee appointed to confer with Col. Scott, of the Pennsylvania Central road will be present and give the result of the conference at to-day's meeting.

LIST OF PATENTS.

Issued from the United States Patent Office to Citizens of the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Following is the list of patents issued from the United States Patent Office to citizens of the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio, for the week ending December 27, 1873, furnished for the COMMERCIAL from the office of J. McC. Perkins & Co., counselors at law and solicitors for American and Foreign patents, Washington, D. C.:

PENNSYLVANIA.

Nut Lock—E. Kaylor, Pittsburgh.
Brick Machine—L. Patterson, Parker City.
Ore Washer—R. Sollilday, Allentown.
Harness Loop—F. Hickman, Reading.
Heating Stove—J. Johnson, Spring City.
Meat Holder—Sarah Beissel, Shamokin.
Railroad Switch Signal—C. W. Spayd, Wilkesbarre.
Car Coupling—X. Krapf and J. F. Boerchel, Allentown.

OHIO.

Clay Mill—J. A. Vaughn and H. B. Camp, Owings Falls and H. C. Merrill, Akron.
Carriage Spring—R. Walker, Harrisville.
Ratchet Wrench—I. C. Colbert, Marysville.
Corn Planter—J. Case, Springfield.
Car Coupling—A. Strain, Greenfield.
Cooking Stove—S. Long, Mayville.
Gate—M. Loomis, Liberty Centre.
Steering Apparatus for Vessels—C. W. Buffington, Kingsville.
Pipe Organ Valve—W. Schulke, Hamilton.
Filter for Wine—C. W. Farciol, Kelley's Island.

Nearly a Centenarian.

Mr. George De Camp, who died at Waterford last Saturday week, was the oldest man in the county of Erie, being, at the time of his death, 99 years, 3 months and 6 days old. He was born at Port Talbot, Maryland, in 1793, and came to this part of the country in 1830, living for the past thirty-five years upon the farm where he died. He voted regularly, coming to the polls for the last time at the State election a year ago last fall. He had intended to cast a vote for Grant's second election, and the citizens had made arrangements to meet him with a band of music and escort him to the polls, but the weather proved unpropitiousand he could not venture out. George W. De Camp, Esq., attorney, now of this city is a son of deceased.

FINANCE AND TRADE

WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 31, 1873.

As the year closes the money market grows gradually easier both here and in neighboring towns, the business demand for funds being light, whilst the resources are steadily increasing.

The January disbursements in the way of dividends and interest are invariably larger, and as preparation has been already made for this demand there is no fear of any stringency on this account. The interest, amounting to about $20,000,000 on the government bonds falling due on to-morrow, is now being paid out and its effects, as usual, has been to relax the gold premium and advance the price of bonds, as most of the interest is usually reinvested in the same class of security.

Money is held in abundance by the banks and rates are not changed from those reported yesterday.

Foreign advices report securities better than last week, United States bonds being stronger and higher.

The Bank of England gained on balance yesterday £97,000 bullion. Its minimum rate is 5 per cent. or 1 per cent. higher than the outside market. The gold market is not affected further than above noted, the Assistant Treasurer having paid out about $8,000,000 on account of coupons maturing to-morrow.

A large business is reported in good railway mortgages, the most active, being in Chicago and Northwestern consolidated gold sixes, of which a large lot changed hands at 81, and $10,000 at 82½ buyer sixty days, indicating a strong faith in an early advance. Rock Island 7's sold at 105, New Jersey Central firsts at 105, St. Paul, 8's at 107, Fort Wayne 8's at 101; Chicago, Burlington and Quincy 8's at 110; Fort Wayne second mortgage at 101; New YorkCentral 7's at 76.

The loan certificates issued by the New York Clearing House, during the panic amounting at one time to $20,000,000, have been reduced to $1,820,000, and these are all held by one bank.

How far government should control our railroads, is a question which has been prominently brought forward by the Granger's movement, and it is not surprising that politicians have carried the subject up to the halls of Congress, and that bills containing all sorts of schemes should be pressed. Mr. McNulta, of Illinois, has the honor of bringing forward the first elaborated bill and of having it referred to the Committee on Railroads and Canals.

Mr. McNulta's bill has eighteen sections, and provides that the United States shall take control of all railroads, now in existence or to be hereafter constructed, and so manage them that: 1st, there shall be uniform rates of charge for passengers and freight; 2d, no discriminating charges between large and small shippers; 3d, freight shall be always at the charges shall be so regulated that the receipts shall equal the expenses and no more; 4th, the dividends of each company shall be given a bond, and all within thirty days from the first of July in each year make a report, "whether proper or improper," with the approval of this report "and the investment of any surplus (net earnings) in United States bonds, or other public securities, with the approval of the court," he shall instruct dividends not to exceed in any one year ten per cent. upon the actual cost of the railroad, such actual cash cost to be determined and decreed by the United States District Court for that district in which are situated the greatest number of miles of the road; 5th, whenever the road earns more than ten per cent. upon its actual cost exclusive of "all lands or easements that may have been donated by the Government of the United States, by the State, county, city, town, municipality, or individuals" the charges for passengers and freight shall be reduced, and if the net earnings are not then reduced to the actual cost, then the charges are to be advanced; 6th, the issue of "watered stock" is prohibited; 7th, personal benefit is positively forbidden; 7th, pooling of earnings is forbidden.

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day, furnished by Gold and Stock Telegraph Company, corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street:

December 31, 1873.	10:30 M.	11:00 A.M.	12:00 M.	1:00 P.M.
Gold	110½	110½	110½	110½
Quicksilver				
Western Union Teleg'h				
Pacific Mail				
Adams Express				
Wells Fargo Express				
American Express				
United States				
New York Central				
Erie				
Michigan Central				
Michigan Southern				
Illinois Central				
Cleveland & Pittsburgh				
Chicago & Northwestern				
Preferred				
Rock Island				
St. Paul				
Preferred				
Wabash				
Preferred				
Fort Wayne				
Ohio and Mississippi				
Union Pacific				
Sioux City				
Boston, Hartf'd and Erie				
Marlem				

—The following are the quotations for Government and State bonds received by wire from New York to-day:

GOVERNMENTS.	Morn.	Noon.
1881, coupons	120½	120¾
5-20s, 1862	114	114¼
5-20s, 1864	113	113¼
5-20s, 1865	113¾	113¾
5-20s, new	119	119¼
5-20s, 1867	119½	119¾
5-20s, 1868	119½	119¾
10-40s	111½	111¾
Currency 6s	114¾	114¾
New 6s	112	113¼
STATE BONDS.		
Tennessees	80	
Tennessee, new	80	
Louisiana, consols, July	70	
Missouri 6s	95¾	

—Robinson & Co., bankers, Fourth avenue furnish the following report of active stocks at the Philadelphia Board:

	Bid.	Asked.
Penna. R. R.	57¾	58
Philadelphia	99¾	
Reading	57¾	
United Cos. N J	118	
Oil Creek	18	
Lehigh Valley	55¾	
N. P. R. R.	41	
Central Transportation	41¾	
P., C. and St. Louis 8s		

WOOL MARKET.

NEW YORK.

December 25.—The market is still quiet. Buyers have been very scarce, but at the same time holders show no disposition to force sales, for which the demand will be more active after the holidays are over than it has been at any time during the past six weeks. The sales comprise 166 bales and bags Mexican, at 30@32c; 86,000 lbs fine unwashed Texas at 35@c; 10,000 lbs, white Colorado 34c; 4,000 black do 30@c; 9,000 lbs fine unwashed Oregon; 30 bales Oregon combing 46c; 2,000 lbs short X pulled 36@37½c; 10,000 lbs California, 28@30c; 5,000 lbs spring do 30@32½c.—*Wyoming Tri.*

December 27.—Since our last there has been very little accomplished in the way of trade. A few manufacturers have been in the market looking for barder, but they have accomplished but little. Stocks are light, both of domestic and foreign, and full former prices were demanded. The sales include 2,000 lbs heavy coarse pulled at 28c; 600,000 lbs various prices, including Ohio fleece, 38@40c; 100 bales do, 55c; 2,500 lbs burry unwashed western fleece, 30c; 10,000 lbs Texas wools, 30@35c, according to quality; 17 bales ungraded California, 17½c; 18 bales Nevada, 18c; 5 sacks medium Utah, 35c; 20 bales Cape, 37c.—*Shipping List.*

BOSTON.

December 27.—The wool market has been quiet since our last report, and the sales of the week, which is a short one, are lighter than for some time. With a limited demand the tendency is toward a little easier prices, but as dealers have small stocks they are not inclined to sacrifice. There is more activity in the manufacturing branch of the trade than for some time past

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1874.

Wanted.

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL of the following dates to complete our files: February 28th, July 18th and September 26th, 1872, and March 1st, 1873.

A MEMORANDUM for Congressmen with regard to their own and the lobbyists designs on the National Treasury: There are too many hogs and too little fodder.

THE shipments of coal from the anthracite region of Pennsylvania, from the first of January to December 26th, inst., amounts to 22,345,092 tons, an increase over the same period in 1872 of 1,534,[illegible] tons.

WASHINGTON correspondents speak admiringly of the improved aspect of the national capital. Residents are taking heart of grace, and trying to be clean and respectable once more. Now let the people inside of the capital copy the example of those who are outside of it, and the whole country will applaud.

"WILL the People accept Shams for Reform?"—*Ripon Paper.*

Take a look at the popular vote for the new Constitution of this State—reflect upon the humiliating admissions of the framers of that instrument concerning its "ridiculously inconsistent provisions"—and then judge for yourself.

AT THIS rate of progress the good old Commonwealth of Kentucky will become ranged in the list of Republican States almost before she is aware of it. She has lately inaugurated a comprehensive system of education for her colored people, is striving to master the liquor traffic, and is putting down gambling with a firm hand. All hail, Kentucky!

A NEW YORK Democratic contemporary refers to the opening of a quarry of "elastic" stone in North Carolina, and suggests that "it be utilized in the construction of a new treasury building." We beg to amend the proposition by recommending that it be employed as a substitute for conscience in the case of the Democratic back-paysters.

"HERE," caustically observes the Democratic St. Louis *Republican*, "is an earnestness of the future uselessness of the Democracy. They seem to go on the assumption that whatever is done, the Republican party will be responsible for it." Of course they do; and thus we get another illustration of the wonderful all-inclusiveness of the utterances of the myriad-minded SHAKESPEARE: "Thou can'st not say I did it."

THIS is another encouraging sign. The President, in a recent conversation with a Dutch capitalist who is on a tour in this country in the interest of his countrymen who have invested their money in our railroad securities, is reported to have pronounced himself squarely against building any more railroads with government aid, declaring, emphatically, that the roads ought not to be built hereafter until the people are able and willing to pay for them.

AS THE result of recent investigations and explorations, it is now believed that large subterranean streams flow under the vast plains stretching from the Rocky mountains to the Mississippi, which can be reached and made available. In view of the well-ascertained fact that the rain belt has been yearly extending in width, it would seem to be by no means impossible that in course of time those great plains will yet teem with the rich cultivation of forests and waving grain.

THE New York *World* is publishing a series of double-leaded arguments to prove that the protective tariff is the source of all our earthly troubles, including the Tammany ring frauds, the Modoc war, the Virginius massacre, the escape of GENET, the loss of the Ville du Havre, the prevalence of fogs, strikes, railroad collisions, cholera, drunkenness, financial disturbances, visits from mothers-in-law, and every other description of evil that stalks abroad on the earth.

IF the present scarcity of breadstuffs in the European nations, and in view of the increasing importance of California as a grain producing country, it is almost a matter of international importance to know that the winter rainfall on the Pacific coast assures bounteous harvests for the coming year. The London *Times* estimates that 74,000,000 bushels of wheat will be required from this country to supply the markets of Europe until the crop of 1874 is harvested.

THE New York papers publish a list of dividends declared and paid in 35 bankruptcy cases recently pending before Register KERCHAM; and as this list of dividends probably indicates a general average of such cases, it is to that extent instructive. One case pays 100 per cent.; one other, 60; one 50; one 46; one 32 one 30; one 26; three 25; four 20; three 18; one 15; two 12; two 11; four 10; two 8; six from 1 to 6; and one pays three-eighths of 1 per cent., which is about as near nothing as a bankrupt could get.

IT IS affirmed that certain over-sensitive United States Senators are considering the question of introducing a bill "to regulate the reporters of the Senate," the design being to prevent correspondents from saying what they chose about the members of that body. No doubt the liberty of the press is sometimes grossly abused by unscrupulous writers, but any attempt to gag it so as to prevent the freest criticism of the actions or opinions of our public servants will meet, as it will deserve to do, the severest condemnation of the whole people.

A CERTAIN Bourbon Member of Congress, who recently left his seat as soon as a colored Representative began to address the House, is said to be a disciple of DARWIN, holding that the human species had its origin in the monkey or ape. This, however, by no means excuses his discourtesy on that occasion. The latter, indeed, goes far to prove that men may breed backward as well as forward, and we certainly fail to see wherein one who is developing downward, has any right to claim superiority over another whose processes of evolution are in an exactly opposite direction.

THE statistics of our import trade from Great Britain for the eleven months ending November 30th, which will be found published in another column, exhibit the most unfavorable condition of English foreign trade of all returns for several years. The gross decrease from that of last year amounts to nearly fifteen per cent. or $49,280,453, though the relative depreciation in certain important articles is much greater. The statement should be eminently satisfactory to our national pride, since it means that the ability of our own manufacturers to supply the wants of the country is every year becoming greater.

WHEN Congress reassembles, it is to be hoped we shall have no more of the disgraceful personal bickerings, wrangles, devices and subterfuges which have thus far consumed so large a portion of the time of the House. Unless members are bent on committing political hari-kari, let them settle down to the consideration of the legitimate business of the country, demanding, as it does, prompt and thorough attention. If they are so strongly afflicted with the *cacoethes loquendi* that they cannot possibly keep their tongues from wagging, at least let it be seen to that they wag in silence.

THE financial situation continues to improve, the weekly statement of the New York banks being particularly encouraging in the evidence which it affords of returning strength. These institutions now hold the large sum of $23,514,300 in gold—an increase since last week of $1,526,400; and of deposits $195,152,000—an increase of $1,053,000. The outstanding loans are $258,094,500, and the legal tenders in hand amount to $44,954,000. The total reserve is $68,178,300, and the total liabilities $222,308,800. The 25 per cent. reserve being $55,577,050, the excess over the same is $12,601,250, showing a gain since last week of $1,336,125. The indications are that after the beginning of the New Year money will be still easier than at present.

BIGNESS costs more than greatness. The bonded and floating debt of Chicago has been increased since 1869 by eighty-eight per cent., or from $8,189,371 to $15,396,332. The expenditures for four years have amounted to $25,500,000. In addition to this, the treasury of the city will be absolutely empty on the first of January, while the debt will be considerably over a million dollars. The city's hands are tied, too, for it cannot issue bonds, and the collection of the next tax levy cannot be enforced for six months. Add to this that the Controller is inefficient through illness, and that the Mayor is quarreling with his council, and the statistics which yesterday's *Post* presents of "the continued and rapid growth of the city's general trade," will not appear so exceedingly extraordinary, after all.

IS CONGRESS a mere menagerie of moral cowards? It would almost seem so, from the fact that, in making up the biographical sketches of its members for the Congressional *Directory*, it has been developed that, while about forty held military or civil offices in the late Confederacy—also, that a considerable number, especially from the South, were connected with the Freedmen's Bureau—and while the Confederates have authorized a full statement of their official relations with the rebellion, yet those who held positions in the Freedmen's Bureau have, without exception, indicated a desire that no mention should be made thereof. Gentlemen, there is, in a certain book, a certain passage which reads something like this: "He who is ashamed of Me of him also shall my Father be ashamed." Is any of you happen to remember it?

STRIKES.

However grievously they may be put out or however much they may be affected in property by a strike, the American public not directly concerned with its origin, are usually, we believe, slow to take a side either for or against a movement of the kind. There is here no dominant class whose members by birth and condition are secluded from the laboring classes in their habitual feelings and in their ordinary hopes and fears. Of American capitalists the great majority have been themselves laborers, and as such have become familiar with the difficulties and with the habits of thought which regulate the projects and determine the actions of the class; and even those capitalists who have never been sellers of labor, are through the influence of the republican spirit, hardly less capable than the others of "putting themselves in the place" of the laborer. As the success or failure of a strike must after all, in a considerable degree, depend upon public opinion, the fact just mentioned is no unimportant element in the contest between capital and labor, when in this country it leads to a combined suspension of work for the sake of higher wages, or in resistance of their reduction. Formerly in Europe, and to some extent there even now, all combination of laborers for their own interest or protection was condemned by public opinion without exception or qualification, and in Great Britain all such combination was forbidden by law, under heavy penalties. In spite of the change which British and European public opinion has undergone on this subject, the general community nowhere beyond the Atlantic regards a defensive union of laborers with so much sympathy and respect as it receives in the United States.

Americans generally concede the right of laborers to combine for their own protection and advantage. While recognizing the great economical law that the market rate of wages is regulated by supply and demand, they well know and concede—with Mr. STUART MILL—that "demand and supply are not physical agencies, which thrust a given amount of wages into a laborer's hand without the participation of his own will and actions." No self-acting instrument fixes for the workman the compensation due for his work. Even Americans, too rich or too proud to higgle with a huckster or even with a "storekeeper" over the price of an article, know very well that "higgling" may often be necessary to avoid extortion or to reduce a demand within reasonable limits. Poor human nature is much inclined to sell dear and buy cheap, and "higgling" seems to be the method ordained by fate to bring the law of supply and demand to the consciousness as well as the conscience of buyers and sellers. It is no calumny to say that in every community there are dealers ready to take for their goods precisely what they can get for them, dealers who in buying and selling know no other law than the knowledge or simplicity or necessities of customers prescribe. In the market of labor the same trait of human nature is ever present and potent, and unless the buyers and sellers of the article—labor—are placed on somewhat equal terms; in other words, unless both buyer and seller possess the right and moreover the power to "higgle" about and at last reject each other's demands, wrong and extortion are very likely to be the result. As in such a dispute between a rich buyer and a single poor seller of labor, the latter would be helpless, completely at the mercy of the other, the combination of laborers for their own protection against extortion is clearly a right in the exercise of which they deserve to be as they are, sustained by the public opinion of this country.

The advantage, however, which laborers thus here enjoy in the possession of public sympathy, certainly imposes on them a heavy responsibility in the exercise of their acknowledged right. Americans while frankly conceding to their industrial countrymen the right even to "strike work" as a means of securing compliance with just demands, only the more rigorously require, before approving the step, that it shall not have been taken thoughtlessly or recklessly. It is no light or trifling matter to arrest or embarrass the operations of any part of the great industrial machinery of society. In hardly any other way is it possible for the loafer—the dangerous class—to do such mischief both to individuals and the public. According to a low estimate, the strike in the Welsh iron works some time ago cost the proprietors thirteen millions of dollars, while by the same affair the laborers lost five and a half millions, and it was all without beneficial result. Of the evil results in the fruits of idleness and dissipation no estimate can be made. By a strike of Welsh coal miners in 1871, who demanded an increase of five per cent. in their wages, 2127,000 were wasted in twelve weeks. The miners then resumed work at an increase of two and a half per cent., but it is estimated that nine years will be required to compensate by the advance the sum flung away in order to secure it. In both cases the strikers would likely now admit that they aimed at a result which was incompatible with the facts which regulate supply and demand, a condition which always renders a strike foolish, and therefore wrong.

Just at present in this country, not only the laborers but the general public ought to be able to see very clear reasons for such a movement, before giving it either their adhesion or their sympathy. When business is barely beginning to revive from the effects of the panic, and when so many thousands of industrious men and women are bearing hunger in enforced idleness in all the great centres of populations, a strike which carries confusion into many branches of industry and threatens ruin to others must be justified in the plainest way to escape condemnation as a high crime against society and humanity. Men, heretofore well paid, who arrogantly and unscrupulously avail themselves of the incidental advantage of their position to extort exemption from a general reduction of wages made necessary and expedient by the financial condition of the times, display a spirit of brutal indifference to the common welfare, which merits, as it will certainly sooner or later receive, such punishment as a just and intelligent public sentiment can inflict.

THE ALTERNATIVES.

A contemporary placing together our national debt, the debts of the States, cities, counties and towns, the debts of individuals, and the amount of railroad bond and mortgage indebtedness, finds the grand total to be about $12,000,000,000, the interest upon which sum at 7 per cent. is $840,000,000. As, according to the census of 1870, the official valuation of the property of the United States was $30,000,000,000, this sum would have to yield about 3 per cent. in order to pay the mere interest of our indebtedness. A very large proportion of the sum yielding absolutely nothing, the remainder greater or less must, by its annual increase, pay the immense interest account lying against us before a dollar can be added to the permanent wealth of the country, or the burden of debt begin to be lightened.

It is not necessary to admit the absolute accuracy of the foregoing statement in order to admit the general correctness of the impression it conveys. There is good reason to believe that the official estimate of the national wealth, as presented in the census of 1870, fell considerably short of the actual amount. In one great section of the country, in the States lately in rebellion, the condition of things existing made the gathering of needful details impossible, and in the development which has since taken place, it is safe to assume an increase not to be measured by general economical laws. In the rest of the Union, after making all necessary allowances for fictitious, agencies and results, comprehensive prosperity in all departments of business has marked the years since the estimate was made, and in connection with the exceptionally favorable position of the country warrants the most cheerful assumptions as to the growth of wealth. Still, comparing our actual indebtedness, not with the estimate of the census of 1870, but with the probable wealth of to-day, it must seem enormous even to the least imaginative reader of figures: so enormous, indeed, that definite conceptions of it are not easily acquired, and that a few millions or even a few billions, more or less (on paper), may seem to make little, if any, practical difference. The vastness of our indebtedness in relation even to the most liberal estimate of our wealth is a stubborn, irresistible fact, which cannot be got rid of either by hope or fancy, or by the most brilliant and persuasive rhetoric in which hope or fancy can find expression. The fact, however disagreeable, must be bravely confronted and practically dealt with, if the American people are to prosper financially in the future as in the past, or to maintain a respectable position among the nations of the earth.

It is certainly far from flattering either to our hopes or our self-complacency to behold the attitude with which many of our legislators in Washington and elsewhere approach and handle the financial situation. Those who treat it either as a party question or as [illegible] an opportunity for partisan [illegible] without a two-thirds vote of all the members in its favor.

Heretofore, all appropriations have been included in one bill—the general appropriation bill—and the friends of an appropriation to one institution helped the friends of other appropriations in order to save their own. They stood or fell together, and each helped the other; but under the new arrangement of things this cannot be done. Each appropriation must stand or fall upon its own naked merits, without help drawn from others that have here ofore been in the same boat with them; and not only so, but each appropriation must secure sixty-seven votes in the House and twenty-two in the Senate before it can pass.

Under such circumstances it behooves the friends of Dixmont and the Reform School to ascertain whether these votes can be secured for the usual appropriations to those institutions; and if they find that that cannot be done, to prepare for raising the money in some other way. We do not undertake to prophesy or anticipate possible results; but it will be the part of prudence to take into consideration, *now*, the worst of these two contingencies, and be prepared with some plan for taking care of those institutions in case the appropriations should fail.

The Reform School belongs to the western counties of the State, and each of them has to pay for the care of the youth committed to it from each. Allegheny county furnishes the largest number of its inmates, and hence will have to bear the largest share of the cost of keeping it going.

Dixmont Hospital, also, belongs to the west, and the Directors of the Poor in each county pay their share of the present cost of keeping the insane sent there from each. The Directors of Allegheny City, of Pittsburgh, and of Allegheny county each pay at the rate of so much per week for the care of all indigent insane sent from their respective jurisdictions to that institution. This rate, at present, owing to the fact that the State has contributed liberally to the support of the hospital, is a very low one; and if this aid from the State is to be lost, it follows that the rate for indigent paupers must be increased sufficiently to make up the odds.

And this naturally leads to another conclusion. Dixmont is, at present, and is likely to be, full to overflowing; and if the indigent insane from this county were withdrawn from it, and put into a hospital by themselves, there would still be little enough room at Dixmont to accommodate properly those who would be left. Why, then, should not the three Boards of Directors of the Poor in this county meet together and provide for erecting an insane asylum for the poor creatures committed to their care? That seems to us to be the dictate of duty, under existing circumstances. It would be a great relief to Dixmont; it would remove many present causes of discontent and dispute; and, in the end, would not only be cheaper for the tax-payers, but more creditable to their humanity.

We throw out these suggestions for consideration. The subject is one that cannot be thrust aside; and we ask for it the careful attention of those whose business it will be to decide upon it when the time comes.

TRANSMISSION OF NEWS IN FRANCE.

France with reason or without has long claimed to be the centre of civilization, and no foreigner questions that the French people are entitled to rank very high as cultivators of the arts and sciences. It is, therefore, at first difficult to believe, and, when believed, suprising how very imperfectly the French people appreciate the importance of the rapid and safe transmission of intelligence or what is called news in the most comprehensive sense of the word. French statesmen seem to be only beginning to get over and lay aside the ancient, effete idea that the postoffice, instead of being a mighty instrument of national development and prosperity, is valuable chiefly as a source of revenue to the government. For many years, through the prevalence of this mistaken notion, the postal relations between France and the United States have been in the most unsatisfactory condition. To merchants on both sides of the water the want of some well contrived postal arrangement between the two governments has been a constant source of loss and trouble, while Frenchmen living in this country have never ceased to complain of the apparent indifference of their rulers to the great interest. The formal complaints we have seen, the entire blame has been thrown upon the French side, the reasonableness and readiness of the American government to come to terms being freely admitted. When M. DE NOAILLES was appointed Minister at Washington, he was fully expected soon to remove the grievance, but it still exists, and a Paris dispatch of December 20 stated that, at length, many members of the Assembly had just called attention to the evils, and had earnestly urged the government to hasten the conclusion of a postal convention with the United States, "the actual situation being prejudicial to French commerce and intolerable." In reply the Minister of Finance said that the government sincerely desires to reconcile the interests of the two countries, and hopes soon to arrive at an understanding. Commenting on the dispatch the *Courrier des Etats Unis* hopes for a satisfactory result, but not with too much confidence.

In connection with this topic the fact mentioned elsewhere by the same paper is significant that the journals of Paris depend upon pigeons to receive for their morning issues the proceedings of the Assembly at Versailles, ten miles distant. Think of Baltimore or Pittsburgh or New York, connected with Washington by telegraph, having to depend upon some such resource for the acts of Congress. But in France it seems that nobody of less dignity than a minister or an ambassador is permitted to use the telegraph for the transmission of news. And yet, perhaps, there is no other country in which newspapers have on occasions exerted more influence or in which journalists have performed more important parts in politics.

Returning for a moment to the pigeons, we may say that between Versailles and Paris they do their work well. By crossing breeds a race of amazing swiftness has been produced. Though not quite rivaling the telegraph, one of them sometimes makes a thousand *metres* a minute, the *metre* being equal to a little more than thirty-nine American inches. At Versailles as many as thirty or forty are some days despatched with letters for the journals of the capital. Flying only by sight, however, they cannot be used at night, and, indeed, it is only on clear days, especially towards evening, they can be depended upon to find the place of their destination.

FRANCE AND ITALY.

M. FOURNIER, for some years French Minister in Italy, whose leave-taking of VICTOR EMMANUEL was mentioned in our issue of yesterday, has doubtless been a subject of considerable perplexity to the MACMAHON government. In many ways M. FOURNIER made himself odious to the Pope and his friends, and especially by taking pains to show that the French people entertained neither purpose nor desire to interfere with Italian policy towards Rome and the temporal power. He was, therefore, fiercely denounced in all the Ultramontane journals of both France and Italy, while the same party even openly vehemently demanded his recall. The Liberal journals and not only the Republicans, but all sensible Royalists in France who saw the madness of provoking the enmity of the Italians, were just as earnest in commending the conduct of the French representative, while in Italy M. FOURNIER was equally popular with the multitude and at court. To let him remain at his post in Rome was to afford the best reply to the recall him seemed likely to confirm the suspicions of the Italians as to the intention of the French Monarchists to interpose for the deliverance of the Pope from his imaginary imprisonment. However, the French government seems to have thought his recall unavoidable, but it has been rendered as honorable as possible. M. FOURNIER has been made a Minister Plenipotentiary of the first class, and has been retired on the pay of that grade in the diplomatic service. In order to please the Italians and neutralize their suspicion of French intermeddling with their affairs, M. DE NOAILLES, late Minister at Washington, takes the place of M. FOURNIER at Rome. It seems that in his entire career he has kept aloof from Ultramontane schemes and intrigues, and in Italy is already known to have no sympathy with reactionary views on the subject of the temporal power. It is admitted that his task in Rome will be difficult and delicate, but at least some Frenchmen hope that he may succeed, not only in dissipating Italian distrust of the French government, but in so changing Italian opinion on the subject as to form a close Franco-Italian alliance.

In the meantime, all signs indicate that the Italians intend to move steadily forward in the policy hostile to the Vatican as controlled by Jesuit influence, and so far to co-operate with Germany in its struggle with the Papacy. Italian unity is to be made a permanent and effective reality. A law for the regulation of the relations of Church and State will soon be laid before the Italian Parliament for action, while the work of army organization and the national defense is to be pressed on at the same time. Popular instruction also, including compulsory education in the essential elements, will be carried out, in connection with other important reforms. All these measures are believed to be in accordance with the understanding [illegible] arrived at between the Italian and the German governments. There appears, therefore, no good reason to anticipate that any influence, Ultramontane or anti-German on the part of France could, if exerted, succeed in turning or modifying a policy so full of promise for Italy in the future; a policy which renders her safety in time to come dependent upon the energy and good faith with which she stands by the ally whose interests and dangers are identical with her own.

ECONOMY IN STATE EXPENDITURES.

The Legislature, when it meets, will find itself confronted with the duty of arranging the details of putting the new Constitution in operation; and we trust the members will come to the discharge of that duty with a determination to give that instrument the fairest possible chance. The tax laws will have to be revised; the judicial districts will have to be rearranged; the number of general laws will have to be enlarged, in order to meet the contingencies heretofore provided for by special legislation; and the entire machinery of the State will have to be readjusted.

All these are serious duties, but the most difficult of all the tasks imposed upon the Legislature will be to so arrange the financial system of the State as not to increase the burdens of the people, and yet be able to meet all the demands upon the public purse that arise legitimately.

This result cannot be accomplished without keeping the strictest economy constantly in view, and the first step, we take it, in that direction, is to reverse the present almost irresistible tendency towards higher salaries for public officials. We know we are treading on delicate ground, here, and may hurt the toes of some whose feet are in the way; but our mind is clear to the general fact that if we are to have more judges, we cannot pay them higher salaries without increasing taxation. The alternative is a plain one, and easily understood; and being heartily opposed to any increase of taxation, we cannot favor the increase of salaries.

The State debt has got to be met and extinguished within the present century. We have been reducing it at the rate of one-and-a-half to two millions a year, lately; but if it is reduced at the rate of one million a year, hereafter we shall be doing well enough, and be going along fast enough. The Sinking Fund, therefore, should be framed on that basis, and such revenue set apart for it as will extinguish it in the next twenty-five years.

Beyond that, there is a million annually to be given to common schools, and from four hundred thousand to half a million, for several years yet, to the soldiers' orphan schools. These, with legislative and governmental expenses, with the cost of penitentiaries and insane asylums, and the pay of judges will constitute the bulk of State expenditures. A very great portion of these expenditures will consist of items that cannot be cut down; but there will be other items that will be under legislative control, and it is in arranging these that the spirit of economy will have to be called into play.

We invoke the constant presence of that spirit in the legislative halls the coming winter. The tendency to increased salaries must be met and overcome. The pressure for the highest figures by all who have their eyes fixed on places they expect to be carved out or themselves will be severe and persistent; but as the members of the coming session of the Legislature must provide for *raising* the revenue as well as for its appropriation, they will do well to bear in mind that the burdens of taxation fall on all, whilst the benefits of large expenditures fall to but a few. Happy will it be for the many if *their* interests shall prove predominant with their representatives; and woe to the representative who forgets them.

TRANSPORTATION AND MANUFACTURING.

The farmers of the West are just beginning to wake up to the conviction that what they want is not so much a cheapening of transportation to distant markets, as the creation of a home market for the consumption of their products near the place of their production. They need to bring the plow, the loom and the anvil together, more than they need a four-track railroad from Chicago to New York. They would be masters of the situation if New York, and New England, and Europe had to go to them to buy, instead of waiting for the West to come to them to sell. The point is very well put by the Milwaukee *Sentinel* in the following:

"There is no reasonable doubt that our products pay a much heavier toll than is necessary for carrying them to the seaboard; but yet the question remains whether they can ever be carried so cheaply as to leave a margin equal to that which might be realized if all them if only so much of our population could be steadily employed in manufactures and other like pursuits as would consume the extra crops which are necessarily produced by those engaged in agriculture. It may be seriously doubted. At least this much is certain, that every man who establishes some branch of valuable manufacturing in any of these great grain-producing States of the Northwest is doing as good a work in his way to solve the difficulties that hamper us as if one of his boys were inventing the art of reaching the same end. No conceivable texture of legal enactments can regulate a disordered state of trade that grows out of overproduction in one particular line of industry, and this, to a considerable extent, is the trouble that besets us now. The West does not need so much to farm less—though that, in some respects, would be well—as to begin to manufacture more. A judiciously managed line of manufactures in any neighborhood is the best possible basis for all other business, and such neighborhoods, especially when surrounded by a rich agricultural country, always pass through seasons of financial embarrassment with the greatest safety. Such localities are everywhere in the West. Scarcely could be better situated in this respect. If this lever is seized, together with a wise and judicious legislation, as a means of escape from the thraldom in which agriculture now finds itself placed, there may be an escape with a blessing to it; but if we depend on legislation alone for relief, we may escape extortion and much impoverishment, but must always expect to witness a deal of needless poverty and constantly recurring revolutions in seasons of great over-supply. We must employ more of our people in shops, mills and factories, or we must suffer for it as we are suffering now. This is the lesson that has been pressed upon the West time after time, and it must still be pressed again and again. We cannot live by bread, beef, and pork alone."

THE SUB-TREASURY AS A REMEDY.

The tide of defalcations now sweeping over the country is nothing new or strange. It is melancholy that such things can be, and that men entrusted with the care of the public funds should prove unfaithful to their trust; but, under similar circumstances, such things have occurred before, and it is well enough to inquire whether the remedies then adopted would not be equally potent now.

In Gen. JACKSON'S time, and prior to the establishment of the Sub-Treasury, the funds of the United States were deposited in various banks throughout the country which were by them loaned out to their customers. Every one familiar with the facts of history knows of the financial disasters that followed this disposition of the public money; but every one does not now recall the other fact that at the same time the public car was pointed by the recital of just such a series of losses as the public prints have lately been detailing. There were differences, of course, in the details of the cases; but the custody of the public money, subject to the control of the depositing officer, seemed to breed as surely then as it seems to have done now, a series of large and astounding defalcations.

The establishment of the Sub-Treasury called that epidemic of dishonesty. It put the national money in safe and secure places, and the power of depositing it at bank regulated, and to limit the profits of railroad stockholders. In effect, it provides for a governmental seizure of all the railroads in the country, and for running them under governmental control; and the head of the Railroad Bureau, under this bill, would be the center of the most gigantic "ring" that was ever formed in this or any other nation.

When power like this begins to accumulate in the hands of the general government, we may begin to write the history of its downfall. No government, republican in form, can safely undertake to exercise despotic powers. A "parental" government, which undertakes to do everything for its citizens, must necessarily be a government of unlimited powers; and the United States government, while it retains its present form, being one of extremely limited powers, can never be "parental" or "strong" enough for such work as Mr. MCNULTA would impose upon it. We may live to see the day when individual enterprise will be crushed out and governmental enterprise will do everything; but we hardly expect to see such a government carried on under the pretence of being a Republic.

THE blatant and scurrilous mouthings and frothings of TOOMBS, the unrepentant and unhung Georgia traitor—whereto we recently made some brief reference—at length are beginning to promise their legitimate results. A number of representative Bourbons in that State have lately expressed themselves in favor of abrogating the political compact with the general government, by which, some four years ago, Georgia was admitted to representation in the Congress of the United States. They want the "real people" of Georgia to call a convention for the purpose of declaring "the great organic laws of the State, and of returning as far as practicable to the old landmarks in the great past," on the ground that the present constitution and laws of Georgia were made "principally by aliens, strangers and fools." The return which these chivalrous rebels make for the unparalleled clemency and magnanimity which they have experienced at the hands of the people and its government, is absolutely wonderful. Their loyalty consists in hating the United States flag and teaching their children to look upon it as the emblem of degradation and thraldom, while their conservatism takes the form of implacable antipathy toward everything which in the least degree savors of freedom, progression, ascension, and of the higher political, intellectual and moral vitalities and instrumentalities of the age. Let Congress pass that Civil Rights bill, and so carry the results of the war to a more logical and enduring conclusion, without delay.

THAT wonderful free trade statistician, ALEXANDER DELMAR, maintains that the utmost capacity of any population to consume grain in the form of food is eight to ten bushels per capita per annum, and says that the grain product of the commercial world amounts to eighteen bushels per head, giving an excess of supply which necessarily makes agriculture unprofitable. "If this," exclaims he, "does not demonstrate over-supply, political economy has no useless science, and observation in matters relating to breadstuffs must go for nothing." Just so; and now, perhaps, this statistical prodigy will have the goodness to enlighten an anxious world as to what becomes of the immense breadstuff surplus whose existence, somewhere, his figures so incontrovertibly establishes. And how does it come about that Bengal has starving millions, and that Europe requires seventy-four million bushels of wheat from this country to supply the hungry mouths of its people, until its next year's crop is harvested? "So much the worse for the facts," replied TALLEYRAND, when shown that they conflicted fatally with one of his pet theories of political science. DELMAR has probably made the deft Frenchman his model.

THE proposition for the establishment of a Grand International Court of Arbitration for the settlement of disputes among the nations of Christendom, appears to be gaining a foothold in Europe. Action has just been taken in the Italian Parliament approving the object in view, and a national committee for Italy has been appointed, for correspondence with the organizations already existing in several countries in Europe. The directors of affairs in Italy seem to have embraced readily and with warmth the plan by which a prospect is opened for settling peacefully any questions that may arise with neighboring States. The expenses of an international jury are less than a week's armament, without taking into account the enormous economy of human life. Those American promoters of the scheme who are at present in Rome, have been received with many distinguished marks of respect and honor. Who can tell but that some who are now living may witness the fulfilment of TENNYSON'S prophetic lines of the future—

"When the war-drum throbs no longer, and the battle-flags are furled,
In the Parliament of Man, the federation of the World."

THE Constitutional Convention, prior to its final adjournment, passed a resolution asking the Governor to violate the law and declare the Constitution in force from the 1st of January, 1874. The law in the case (and that law has been declared to be constitutional and in full force by the Supreme Court,) requires the Secretary of the Commonwealth to transmit the returns of the election on the Constitution to the Legislature within five days after its assembling; and when the Legislature has properly canvassed and certified the returns, then the Governor is required to issue his proclamation declaring that the Constitution has been adopted. The Governor having no power to execute and enforce the laws of the State, will probably gauge his action by the terms of this law, and the proclamation declaring the Constitution will not be issued until after the returns have been legally canvassed. The Constitutional Convention had no legal right to canvass the returns, and its request to the Governor to violate the law and his oath of office will not, therefore, be complied with.

SOME weeks ago the Master in Chancery of the United States Court in Chicago decided that a number of railway companies must pay a large sum of money damages for their infringement of the well-known "Tanner" car brake patent. The report attracted considerable attention at the time, on account of the importance of the patent and the vigorous manner in which the litigation was carried on. The associated railways were dissatisfied with the Master's conclusions, both as to the amount of damages he reported and the reasoning by which he arrived at his results, and they filed a large number of exceptions to his findings. These exceptions were recently fully argued before the Judge of the United States District Court in that city, and the court, on Friday, made a decision holding that the Master was correct, overruling all the exceptions and confirming the report in every particular. This decision is a matter of considerable importance to a large number of railroads in the United States.

THE Union Pacific Railroad Company are playing a sharp game. We doubt, however, whether it will win in the end. The report of the government directors shows that the company are disposing of their lands at an average of $4.50 per acre, leaving title to be obtained from the United States, because the government has stopped certifying lands to the company in pursuance of an executive order to withhold one-half the lands not certified to the company, until they should begin to pay the interest on their subsidy-bonds, and set aside five per cent. of their net earnings for the payment of the principal of those bonds. The corporation has received all the subsidy to which it was entitled by law, and yet, in order to avoid the five per cent. sinking fund, it has the dishonest effrontery to maintain that it is not completed. The government directors, however, have decided that the road is finished within the meaning of the act. This settles the matter; and now let the company be held to a rigid observance of its obligations, down to the minutest particular.

SOME TIME ago we published in the COMMERCIAL an extracted article on a furnace that burns coal dust, the improvement being represented as an English invention, perfected after several years of constant labor and experiment. It now appears that the invention is really American, and its date anterior to the incipient though claimed in England. As long ago as 1867 Dr. HAYES, an eminent scientist of Massachusetts, instituted a series of successful experiments in this direction, constructing a machine in which, by rapid motion, the coal-refuse became more finely pulverized; a stream of air from the bellows being driven through it, carrying the dust in a graduated quantity, and largely mixed with atmospheric air, over the stationary bed of ignited fuel. The principle would seem to be worth the careful attention of those employing furnaces to drive engines, &c. since, if, in this way, the dust could be made available as fuel, the invention would be almost invaluable.

A SOMEWHAT important decision was on Friday rendered by the Supreme Court of New York, in regard to the liability to taxation of foreign banking capital used in New York city. Several Canadian monetary corporations having agencies in that city were assessed on the capital employed, by the Commissioners of Taxes and Assessments. An appeal was taken, not from the amounts fixed by the commissioners, but on the ground that under the act of 1851 they were wholly exonerated from taxation as well as on the general common law ground that personal property has its location where its owner resides. The court, in rendering the decision, put the case in a nutshell, in saying that, as the money is used in this country for business purposes, and receives the same protection from the laws as does home capital, so it should pay its share of the expenses of government. Judgment was, therefore directed by the Tax Commissioners.

SOME of the Southern papers profess to think it most unfortunate to the harmony of society in that section that the Civil Rights bill has been brought again before Congress, because there is at present better feeling between the races than at any time since close of the war. They say that if the bill is passed it will engender hostility again and defeat the object for which it is intended. Why, pray? If the colored people of the Southern States are to be compelled to tarry for the recognition of their rights as men and citizens until the whites of that quarter shall see fit to accord them, they may wait until the crack of doom for the realization of their abeyant hopes. The inauguration of a "better feeling" between the races is a good sign, and right heartily do we welcome its advent. That which is needed, however, is justice, not sentiment—conscience, not mere sympathetic impressibility—direct accountability, not simply vague humanitarian impulses.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

"Old Tecumseh's" credit is sound. Among the assets of Jay Cooke & Co., as published, one dollar is due the firm from the Commander of the Army, and it is designated as "good."

It is much better to adopt that resolution before than after New Years, and then, you know, you won't have any headache.

Some one has originated the theory that a mirage deceived the second lieutenant of the Ville du Havre, and thus brought about the collision. Deceptive.

Platform of the communist: Every man who saves money must be made to divide with every man who saves none.

A Washington correspondent says of Mrs. Logan, wife of the Senator, that when in that city "she is one of the most charming and intelligent women." What is she when out of it?

There is a young lady in northern New York who is rapidly winning deserved distinction as a story-writer for children. Hardly any worker in her vein is more fruitful in piquant felicities of expression, or in little turrows of thought that go twanging straight into the mark.

Shakspeare Caldwell, formerly member of Congress from Louisville, has turned over to the poor of that city a handsome building for hospital purposes, erected by himself at a cost of $80,000. There is something in a name. He is called well.

Chicago is becoming more hoggish than ever. During the present season the packers of that city have slaughtered 900,284 hogs, against 635,785 for the same period last year.

When one reflects on current events, it must be conceded that in the aggregate the workingman manages to develop an astounding amount of folly.

Apparently there has never been so alarming a matrimonial mania as is prevailing this season. The poorer men grow, the more responsibilities they seem willing to assume. Weddings and wedding-garments are the subject of constant gossip in the papers.

Germany is acquiring a reputation for adulterating cigars. A writer in that country says: "All sorts of solid substances may be found rolled up in the leaf of the fragrant weed."

The *Jewish Messenger* is startled at the announcement of one Emanuel Moses Schlamobitz, who proposes to convert all the Jews to Roman Catholicism.

Survivors of Andersonville prison are to shoulder their crutches at a reunion, and together fight over again the horrors of the "dead line." Worcester is the spot selected for the gathering.

There is a great rush by females for office in the Treasury Department. The officials state that never before was the demand for position greater than at present.

The Oklahama question is looming up very high in the lobby at Washington. Two delegations of lobbyists are already on the ground, and a third will arrive in a few days.

There are some cheering indications of a revival of Southern trade. A late number of the Charleston *News* notes the presence in that port of a larger number of vessels than have been seen there at any one time since 1865. In the cotton trade alone that city shows a gain of 20,000 bales over last year.

A general railroad law is to be reported in the Illinois Legislature by the Committee on Railroads; and that the government has the right to charter such roads through States, under the constitutional provisions for the regulation of inter-State commerce.

Governor Dix has issued a proclamation for an election to fill the vacancy caused by the conviction of Genet for felony. The voters will probably be more careful this time about the antecedents of their candidate.

It is stated that the Supreme Court of Texas will probably decide against the legality of the recent election in that State, on account of informality in conducting it.

Frontier hunters and trappers say that all the usual natural signs which indicate severe winter weather are wanting this season. They predict a short and mild winter. The weather thus far confirms their prognostications.

Four millions are asked of the people of the country for paving a portion of the streets and avenues of Washington City. There are a good many Congressmen who own property in Washington City.

There has been a decision in the disputed Osage lands in favor of the settlers. The Judge of the Seventh Judicial District of Kansas holds that the railroads have no grant there. The case will be carried to the Supreme Court.

A mild winter, even when it comes on the heels of a financial panic, is not an unmixed blessing. There are already evidences of a premature development of flower, leaf and fruit buds, which may result in damage.

The announcement of the discovery of a tree in Australia that possesses anti-miasmatic properties, has excited deep interest in the low parts of the Southern States, and a general desire is entertained to know something more of it.

The latest projected railroad enterprise is a line between Boston and Washington, which is to proceed by a short cut across the country, striking the Hudson river at Spuyten Duyvil, thus avoiding the inconvenience of the present break of connection in New York city.

The only petitioners for the revival of the franking privilege, so far, are applicants for seeds and agricultural reports, of whom there are a large number.

The representative of large holders of the small notes issued by the city of Richmond during the Confederate war has inst